

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

May 2025 ● Volume 52 Issue 5 ● A Publication of the Diocese of Owensboro ● westernkycatholic.com



A joyful life

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Where they are

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Bishop William F. Medley greets Sophie Gonzalez, who lectured during Chrism Mass on April 15, which was held at the Owensboro Sportscenter during Holy Week. [Page 12](#)

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Ciboria of unconsecrated hosts are seen at the beginning of the diocese's April 15 Chrism Mass, during which the presbyterate renews their priestly promises, the Sacred Chrism is consecrated, and holy oils are blessed by the bishop. [Page 12](#)

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Front page main photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | WKC

Submissions

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. The Western Kentucky Catholic will take reader-submitted content into consideration but no submissions are guaranteed placement, due to space restrictions.

Article guidelines: The Western Kentucky Catholic will consider submitted articles pertaining to issues and events within our diocese. Please contact the editor in advance for a word limit, as space varies by month.

Photo guidelines: The Western Kentucky Catholic will consider your high-resolution digital photos showing special moments and memories from within our diocese. Photos must be a JPEG format (ending in ".jpg") and sent via email. A photo description, date, and name of photographer must be included. Please email your articles or photos to wkc.editor@pastoral.org by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. Visit westernkycatholic.com/submissions for more information.

THE WESTERN KENTUCKY  Catholic

Official newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro
600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301
Telephone | (270) 683-1545

Email | wkc.editor@pastoral.org

Publisher | Bishop William F. Medley

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Layout | Rachel Hall

The Western Kentucky Catholic, application to mail at periodical postage price is pending at Owensboro, KY 42301.

Published monthly, except June and July, 10 times a year.

Postmaster, send changes to: 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301 phone: 270-683-1545

Member of the Catholic Media Association.

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Correction: In the April 2025 issue, we incorrectly stated on page 4 that Fr. Ramesh Kattermetla, who celebrated his ordination anniversary in April, was assigned to St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville and St. John the Baptist Parish in Fordsville. He is the parochial vicar at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro. The WKC apologizes for this error.

A Word From Bishop Medley: *The month of Mary*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I have shared before, when I visit classrooms in our schools or with any groups of children and young people, one of my favorite practices is to invite them to ask me questions. After so many years as bishop, the same questions become the frequently asked questions.

Almost without exception, one of first three or four questions is “Who is your favorite saint?” Well, that’s an easy one as it gives me an opportunity to talk about the lives of the saints, to encourage devotion to the saints, and to share stories of saints

they may not have heard of.

My immediate answer, however, is to note that every Catholic’s favorite saint should be Mary, the Mother of God. Mary stands as the first among the saints, indeed “Queen of Patriarchs, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, and all Saints.”

The month of May is observed in our tradition as a month of special devotion to Mary. As a small child I enjoyed the May devotions to Mary, in part, perhaps because we sang familiar hymns to Mary that were in English. Of course, there were Latin classics like the Ave Maria and the Salve Regina, but also memorable

hymns like “O Mary We Crown Thee with Blossoms Today,” and “Sing of Mary, Pure and Holy.” These songs often accompanied a procession to crown a statue of the Blessed Virgin.

The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as the Litany of Loreto, was composed in the Middle Ages and now holds a place of honor in the life of the Church. Apart from the rosary, it may be the best known of Marian prayers.

During May I encourage individuals and families to rediscover the recitation of the rosary. I present here

Column continues on page 4



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Doors depicting an angel carrying the Holy House of Loreto, believed to be the childhood home of the Blessed Mother, are seen outside the Basilica of the Holy House in Loreto, Italy, in March 2025. The well-known Litany of Loreto, also called the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, takes its name from this devotion and basilica.

BISHOP MEDLEY'S MAY 2025 CALENDAR	
May 1	9 AM School Mass – Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus, Owensboro
May 3	4 PM Confirmation – St. Stephen Parish, Cadiz
May 4	10:30 AM Confirmation – Rosary Chapel, Paducah
	5:30 PM Confirmation – St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley
May 5	6 PM Appreciation Dinner for Pastoral Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers – McRaith Catholic Center
May 6	6 PM Confirmation – St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho
May 7	6 PM Confirmation – Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish, Owensboro
May 9	7 PM OCHS Graduation – Owensboro Sportscenter
May 10	10 AM Brescia University Graduation – Riverpark Center, Owensboro
May 12	5:30 PM Confirmation – Holy Redeemer Parish, Beaver Dam

May 14	8:30 AM Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
	6 PM Confirmation – Christ the King Parish, Madisonville
May 17	7 PM St. Mary High School Graduation – Paducah
May 18	11 AM Confirmation – St. Leo Parish, Murray
	4 PM Acts 2:42 Mass & Dinner – The Bruce, Hopkinsville
May 19	10 AM Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
	1:30 PM Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
May 20-21	Catholic Conference of Kentucky & Bishops of the Province Meeting – Louisville
May 28	10 AM Diocesan Staff Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
	5:30 PM Confirmation – Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville
May 31	10 AM Ordination to the Priesthood of Dcn. Conrad Jaconette – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

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the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary with many of the titles and invocations that set before us Mary's exalted privileges. Any one of these invocations might present to us a meditation on the Mother of God and our Mother.

Lord have mercy.
 Christ have mercy.
 Lord have mercy.
 Christ hear us.
 Christ graciously hear us.
 God, the Father of heaven,
 have mercy on us.
 God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
 God the Holy Spirit,
 Holy Trinity, one God,
 Holy Mary,
 pray for us.
 Holy Mother of God,
 Holy Virgin of virgins,
 Mother of Christ,
 Mother of the Church,
 Mother of Mercy,
 Mother of divine grace,
 Mother of Hope,
 Mother most pure,
 Mother most chaste,
 Mother inviolate,
 Mother undefiled,
 Mother most amiable,
 Mother admirable,
 Mother of good counsel,
 Mother of our Creator,
 Mother of our Saviour,
 Virgin most prudent,
 Virgin most venerable,
 Virgin most renowned,
 Virgin most powerful,
 Virgin most merciful,
 Virgin most faithful,
 Mirror of justice,
 Seat of wisdom,
 Cause of our joy,
 Spiritual vessel,
 Vessel of honour,
 Singular vessel of devotion,
 Mystical rose,

Tower of David,
 Tower of ivory,
 House of gold,
 Ark of the covenant,
 Gate of heaven,
 Morning star,
 Health of the sick,
 Refuge of sinners,
 Solace of migrants,
 Comfort of the afflicted,
 Help of Christians,
 Queen of angels,
 Queen of patriarchs,
 Queen of prophets,
 Queen of apostles,
 Queen of martyrs,
 Queen of confessors,
 Queen of virgins,
 Queen of all saints,
 Queen conceived without original sin,
 Queen assumed into heaven,
 Queen of the most holy rosary,
 Queen of families,
 Queen of peace.
 Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
 spare us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
 graciously hear us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us.
 Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
 That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
 Let us pray.
 Grant, we beseech thee,
 O Lord God,
 that we, your servants,
 may enjoy perpetual health of mind and body;
 and by the glorious intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin,
 may be delivered from present sorrow,
 and obtain eternal joy.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

'The pope, we needed' Bishop Medley remembers Francis, prays for upcoming conclave

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
 WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

During the April 25 Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral for the intention of the soul of Pope Francis, Bishop William F. Medley reflected back to 12 years ago.

"As the conclave unfolded, the world waited for white smoke," said Bishop Medley, who presided at the cathedral's 12:05 p.m. Mass that Friday.

Because of digital and social media, "we were instantaneously aware that a new pope had been elected," said the bishop, detailing how the staff of the diocese's pastoral center hurried down to the basement level to watch the Vatican happenings on a large screen.

Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds, the diocese's vicar general, caught some of the Latin being spoken in the announcement of the newly elected pontiff, and asked, "Did they say Buenos Aires?"

Bishop Medley responded, "I don't know who he is or where he's from, but he chose the name 'Francis.'"

Because Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was

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COURTESY OF L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO
Bishop Robinson shakes hands with Pope Francis when meeting the morning of Dec. 4, 2019, during the bishop's ad limina visit to the Vatican.

not on the “front burner” for most media outlets, Bishop Robinson recalled several minutes passing before a summary about the Argentinian cardinal could be assembled and shared on TV.

The bishop also remembered watching the new pope walk out to the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on March 13, 2013, and did something

before offering the traditional blessing.

“Francis bowed his head and asked Rome and the world to pray for him,” said Bishop Robinson.

Bishop Robinson said the late pontiff “became a tireless advocate, confronting the world of wealth and power.”

In an interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic, Bishop Robinson said that when he first heard the name Francis, “I figured it was for St. Francis Xavier, who founded the Jesuits” (of which Cardinal Bergoglio was a member). Instead, his name had been chosen after St. Francis of Assisi, who cared for the poor.

Bishop Robinson had met the pope three times – once when leading a pilgrimage to Rome in 2019 and participating in the Wednesday audience, and then later that same year when making his ad limina visit to the Vatican, which is when bishops are required to routinely meet with the pope.

His first encounter was earlier, in 2015, when

Pope Francis visited the United States and met with the U.S. bishops at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C.

“Francis revealed (much) about his papacy and identity” by choosing that name, said Bishop Robinson, especially in his compassion for “the poor, particularly with a focus on immigrants and refugees.”

On April 28, the Holy See Press Office announced that the conclave to elect the 267th pope would begin May 7.

Bishop Robinson said that in the last several centuries, the Church has been blessed with a “remarkable” lineup of recent popes like Pope St. John XXIII, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope St. John Paul II.

As the Church approaches the election of St. Peter's successor, Bishop Robinson said that “the history of the Church shows oftentimes how the Holy Spirit has given us the pope we need.” ■

Real conclaves: They aren't the thrillers seen in film, professor says

BY CINDY WOODEN, CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) ~ Novels and films that include or revolve around a conclave often include nefarious plotting, or at least politicking, and attempts to wing it when it comes to the rules for electing a new pope.

But “those rules are set in stone,” Kurt Martens, a professor of canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, told Catholic News Service March 12, while at the Vatican to do research.

If something in the rules is unclear, the cardinals

can seek to clarify it, “but that hasn't happened” since St. John Paul II issued his rules for the conclave in the 1996 apostolic constitution, “Universi Dominici Gregis,” Martens said. The document was slightly revised by Pope Benedict XVI in 2007 and again just before he resigned in 2013.

“So, things are very clear,” the professor said, “they have to follow everything by the book.”

The rules specify that the cardinals should wait at least 15 days after the death or resignation of the pope to begin the conclave, but they should wait no more than 20 days. The cardinals decided April 28 that the conclave would begin May 7.

Only cardinals under the age of 80 when a pope dies or resigns are eligible to enter the Sistine Chapel to elect his successor.

Cardinal Angelo Becciu, who lost the rights associated with being a cardinal after Pope Francis asked him to resign in 2020, said he would obey the late pope's wishes and not seek to enter the conclave May 7.

In a written statement released April 29, the cardinal said, “I have decided to obey Pope Francis' will, as I have always done, to not enter the conclave while remaining convinced of my innocence.”

Cardinal Becciu, 76, was convicted in late 2023

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by a Vatican court on charges of embezzlement related to when he was substitute for the Vatican Secretariat of State. Pope Francis had asked him in 2020 to resign from his Vatican position and to renounce the rights and privileges of being a cardinal, which included entering into a conclave to vote for a pope.

Excluding Cardinal Becciu, there were 135 potential cardinal electors when Pope Francis died April 21. They had gathered as a group only when the newest cardinals were created in December, so it cannot be said that they know each other well.

“They have never been in a gathering together other than a formal liturgical celebration,” Martens said. “They have never been in a meeting, in a consistory where they could exchange ideas with the pope and with each other.”

Although there were not quite so many electors, the conclaves that elected Blessed John Paul I in 1978, St. John Paul II in 1978, Pope Benedict XVI in 2005 and Pope Francis in 2013 all succeeded in sending up white smoke on the second day of the conclave.

And to be elected pope, a candidate must garner at least two-thirds of the votes.

“The Holy Spirit is the official answer” to the question of how the conclaves conclude so quickly, Martens said. But, in the church’s understanding of how that works, human cooperation with the Spirit is also involved.

The primary reason for a relatively quick election “is because the cardinals are prepared,” he said. “They have done their homework.”

The very first description in canon law of a cardinal’s task is to belong to “a special college which provides for the election of the Roman Pontiff.”

The cardinals know from the day they receive their red hats that electing a pope is a task unique to

them. They will have met some cardinals over the years, worked with them as members of Vatican dicasteries and read about others.

But between the death or resignation of a pope and the start of the conclave, all the cardinals – both electors and those over the age of 80 – also meet daily in a general congregation.

There, they handle important church business but also discuss the state of the church and of the world. It is the formal occasion for a cardinal to hone his discernment about the qualities needed in the next pope. And the coffee breaks and mealtimes also help.

The cardinals do not openly ask each other, “Are you a candidate? Shall we elect you?” Martens said, but they pose questions and “they kind of put feelers out and whatnot.”

While the majority of cardinals are being asked to elect a successor to the pope who made them cardinals, it is unlikely they are looking for a carbon copy of the most recent pope.

History shows a trend of cardinals electing a candidate “to correct” some aspect of the last pope’s pontificate, Martens said. That is the source of the adage: “After a short pope, we have a tall pope. After a thin pope, we have a fat pope. After an intellectual, we have more a pastoral person.”

Another characteristic of the conclave, and even of the general congregation meetings, is the vow of secrecy binding all participants.

Martens said the concern for secrecy, affirmed and reaffirmed by recent popes when revising the conclave rules, is because the church wants to en-



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

Cardinals from around the world line up in the Vatican’s Sistine Chapel March 12, 2013, to take their oaths at the beginning of the conclave to elect a successor to Pope Benedict XVI. The following day, on the fifth ballot, they elected Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, who chose the name Francis. The cardinals will again gather May 7, 2025, to elect a successor to Pope Francis, who died April 21.

sure “the election of the Roman Pontiff is free from external interference, both from pressure groups in the church as well as from political actors,” as has happened throughout history.

But, he said, today there are other ways people try to influence the outcome, particularly with websites and social media.

“There are people who are putting information out there that is not just information, but that is a way to influence potential cardinal electors,” he said. When the information provided is “colored in one way or another,” focusing on the authors’ key concerns or interpretations of Catholic orthodoxy, “technically speaking that falls under the conclave rules that forbid that you try to influence a future conclave.”

“The cardinals have to be free of any pressure, be it political pressure, be it pressure from civil governments, be it pressure from groups within or outside the church,” Martens said. ■

‘Joyfully and with courage,’ incoming vocations director says priesthood, religious life ‘a life that’s worth living, a life that’s worth choosing’

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Shortly after Bishop William F. Medley told Fr. Corey Bruns that he would like him to serve as the diocese’s next vocations director, Fr. Bruns found himself in Eucharistic Adoration begging God, “You’ve got to do something to make me know this is your will.”

It was during this period of Adoration, held during the Diocese of Owensboro’s annual priest convocation at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in January, that one of the deacon-seminarians was tapped to proclaim the Gospel.

A Gospel passage had not been selected, so the seminarian, Dcn. Conrad Jaconette, chose one that ended up startling Fr. Bruns into recognition and acceptance.

“It was the Gospel that had been used at my priesthood ordination four years ago,” Fr. Bruns told The Western Kentucky Catholic, explaining that it featured the dialogue between Christ and St. Peter after the Resurrection, during which Our Lord asked him, “Peter, do you love me? ... Tend my sheep.”

It was then that he knew.

While still feeling “inadequate,” he realized that “my inadequacies are what have formed me the most in my priesthood – it is in those instances that Christ does the most,” said Fr. Bruns.

Fr. Bruns, transitioning out of his current role as parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, assumes the role of vocations director on

June 10. He follows in the footsteps of outgoing vocations director, Fr. Daniel Dillard, who is becoming the pastor of St. Martin Parish in Rome, Ky.

He acknowledged that a lot will be new to him, since the stages of seminary formation have been updated since he was a seminarian. This includes the addition of a propaedeutic year, which provides a robust year of discernment in which seminarians begin to develop “a life of prayer, study, fraternity, and appropriate docility to formation,” according to the sixth edition of the Program of Priestly Formation.

Fr. Bruns said he will meet with Bishop Medley later this spring to discuss goals and plans for the Office of Vocations and looks forward to learning from other dioceses that also “have a large rural population, and are getting vocations,” he said.

He hopes to embrace the digital realm and social media to help foster interest in vocations among younger demographics.

“I don’t think that you need to be a TikTok vocations director,” he quipped, “but there are ways to use new media.”

Fr. Bruns said a big influence in fostering vocations is the “personal” connection, that is, “seeing a priest in a moment that speaks to them.”

In embracing his vocation, he has sought to demonstrate that the priesthood and religious life are “a life that’s worth living, a life that’s worth choosing.”

“I’m really trying to reinforce the idea that love means we give ourselves away” into whatever



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Fr. Corey Bruns, parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, genuflects during Eucharistic Adoration, held as part of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage passing through western Kentucky on July 3, 2024. Fr. Bruns assumes the role of vocations director for the Diocese of Owensboro on June 10, 2025.

vocation one is called to, he said, “and to be able to do that joyfully and with courage.”

As Fr. Bruns chats with members of the faithful about his upcoming role, “I just keep telling people to pray for our Church, pray for our seminarians, and pray for me” to be a good vocations director, he said.

He emphasized that when it comes to vocations awareness, “it’s not just me, it’s a team approach,” he said.

“We are all called to invite and also work for (vocations),” he said, adding that “we’re all called to be saints and bring as many people to heaven as possible.”■

Learn more at owensborovocations.com.

Passionists host open house to celebrate expanded facilities

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On April 26 and 27, the Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery held an open house to showcase the expanded facilities in their cloister, located in Whitesville.

Their building campaign, called Cherish the Flame, launched in 2019, following a 2018 assessment that indicated a need to improve the living spaces and overall sustainability for the nuns' growing community. Between the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain and labor shortages, and economic strain, the fundraising goal became \$5.4 million after continued reassessments of construction/renovation needs.

To the nuns' delight and gratitude, the entire project was near completion when they welcomed Bishop William F. Medley to bless the chapter room (a sacred meeting space) and refectory (dining room) in the morning of April 26. While the kitchen itself is still being finished, most of the other areas have been completed and are already being utilized by the nuns.

The main focus of the project was the construction of the Holy Family Wing, which includes the chapter room; a new community room; an exercise room; and a much-needed storage room. Renovations also include a new Spanish tile roof to replace the 20-years' worth of damage to the old one; the new refectory; the addition of traditional covered walkways; and improvements to the retreat house.

Follow the project's progress and donate to the campaign at www.passionistnuns.org/cherish-the-flame.



COURTESY OF BLAND FAMILY

One of the custom-designed stained glass windows in the chapter room (sacred meeting space) of St. Joseph Monastery on April 26, 2025.



COURTESY OF BLAND FAMILY

A carved wooden crucifix, featuring Christ holding a dove is seen in the newly constructed chapter room of St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville.



COURTESY OF PASSIONIST NUNS

The nuns fittingly had their first supper in the new refectory (dining room) on Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025.



COURTESY OF PASSIONIST NUNS

In this fall 2024 photo, Sr. Cecilia Maria, Sr. Mary Veronica, and Sr. Bethany Marie enjoy discussing the scriptures in the cloister's new portico (covered porch).

Happy anniversary to our priests!

In May we celebrate the ordination anniversaries of:

Fr. Fid Levri, GHM | Ordained 5/13/1967
Retired
Bishop William F. Medley | Ordained 5/22/1982
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro
Fr. Bruce Fogle | Ordained 5/21/1983
Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Paducah
Fr. Tony Bickett | Ordained 5/21/1983
Retired
Fr. Greg Trawick | Ordained 5/11/1985
Pastor of St. Henry Parish, Aurora; and St. Stephen Parish, Cadiz
Fr. Terry Devine | Ordained 5/11/1985
Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Hawesville; and St. Columba Parish, Lewisport
Fr. Larry Hostetter | Ordained 5/30/1987
Former president of Brescia University, Owensboro
Fr. Larry McBride | Ordained 5/30/1987
Pastor of St. Martin Parish, Rome
Fr. Freddie Byrd | Ordained 5/28/1988
Pastor of St. Ann Parish, Morganfield
Fr. Bruce McCarty | Ordained 5/27/1989
Pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown
Fr. Darrell Venters | Ordained 5/27/1989
Pastor of St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm
Fr. Dave Johnson | Ordained 5/27/1989
Pastor of Sacred Heart & St. Peter of Antioch Parishes, Waverly
Fr. Richard Cash | Ordained 5/27/1989
Coordinator of Catholic Pastoral Care at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital
Fr. Tony Jones | Ordained 5/27/1989
Pastor of St. Romuald Parish, Hardinsburg
Fr. Ray Clark | Ordained 5/25/1991
Chaplain of Carmel Home, Owensboro
Fr. John Thomas | Ordained 5/29/1993
Rector of St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Fr. Carl McCarthy | Ordained 5/27/1995
Pastor of Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Mike Clark | Ordained 5/27/1995
Pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah
Fr. Brian Roby | Ordained 5/25/1996
Pastor of St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville; and St. John the Baptist, Fordsville
Fr. Brian Johnson | Ordained 5/31/1997
Pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Calvert City; and St. Anthony Parish, Grand Rivers
Fr. David Kennedy | Ordained 5/31/1997
Pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Providence; Immaculate Conception Parish, Earlington; and Resurrection Parish, Dawson Springs
Fr. Mike Williams | Ordained 5/31/1997
Parochial vicar of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro; and chaplain at Brescia University
Fr. Eric Riley | Ordained 5/23/1998
Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield
Fr. Tom Buckman | Ordained 5/20/2000
Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Franklin; and Christ the King Parish, Scottsville
Fr. Randy Howard | Ordained 5/26/2001
Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green
Fr. Al Bremer | Ordained 5/25/2002
Parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish, Russellville; and sacramental minister of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Guthrie
Fr. Jason McClure | Ordained 5/24/2003
Chaplain and director of St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, Bowling Green; ministry to Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, Bowling Green; vicar for clergy
Fr. Daniel Dillard | Ordained 5/30/2009
Parochial vicar of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro; chaplain at Owensboro Catholic High School; and director of vocations
Fr. Joshua McCarty | Ordained 5/30/2009
Pastor of St. Leo Parish, Murray; chaplain

and director of Catholic Newman Center, Murray State University; director of ongoing formation for priests

Fr. Brandon Williams | Ordained 5/29/2010
Pastor of Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro; and co-coordinator of the Office of Worship
Fr. Steve Hohman | Ordained 5/29/2010
Pastor of Christ the King Parish, Madisonville
Fr. Uwem Enoch | Ordained 5/29/2010
United States Air Force Chaplain
Fr. Ryan Harpole | Ordained 5/21/2011
Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green
Fr. Emmanuel Udoh | Ordained 5/31/2014
Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hopkinsville
Fr. Will Thompson | Ordained 5/31/2014
Pastor of St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley; and St. Augustine Parish, Reed; part-time defender of the bond in the Diocesan Tribunal
Fr. Gary Clark | Ordained 5/30/2015
Pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah
Fr. Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero | Ordained 5/30/2015
Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish, Cloverport; and Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Irvington
Fr. Basilio Az Cuc | Ordained 5/28/2016
Parochial vicar of St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah
Fr. Jamie Dennis | Ordained 5/28/2016
Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho
Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than | Ordained 5/23/2020
Pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Peonia, St. Augustine Parish in Grayson Springs, and St. Benedict Parish in Wax
Fr. Corey Bruns | Ordained 5/22/2021
Parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green

Fr. Christopher Grief | Ordained 5/20/2023
Parochial vicar of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson
Fr. Christopher Kight | Ordained 5/20/2023
Parochial vicar of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hopkinsville

In June we celebrate the ordination anniversaries of:

Fr. Frank Ruff, GHM | Ordained 6/1/1963
Retired
Fr. Frank Roof | Ordained 6/10/1972
Retired
Fr. Joseph Schoettle | Ordained 6/8/1974
Parochial vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro
Fr. Richard Meredith | Ordained 6/3/1978
Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson
Fr. Robert Drury | Ordained 6/2/1979
Retired
Fr. Ray Goetz | Ordained 6/6/1981
Chaplain of Mount Saint Joseph; Part-time Lecturer of Theology at Brescia University, Owensboro
Fr. Patrick Cooney, OSB | Ordained 6/1/1991
Judicial vicar of the Diocesan Tribunal
Fr. Julio Barrera | Ordained 6/1/2013
Pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, Beaver Dam; and Holy Trinity Parish, Morgantown; Director of Formation for Hispanic Candidates for Permanent Diaconate

In July we celebrate the ordination anniversaries of:

Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling | Ordained 7/2/2022
Parochial vicar of Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green
Fr. John Vaughan | Ordained 7/20/1974
Pastor of Immaculate Parish, Owensboro
Fr. Jojy Joseph, HGN | Ordained 7/18/2008
Pastor of St. Francis Borgia in Sturgis, St. William in Marion, and St. Ambrose in Henshaw. ■

‘We bring what we have to the altar’ - Seminarian’s chalice continues long legacy of ‘keeping traditions alive’

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Dcn. Conrad Jaconette, who will be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro this May at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, did not originally seek out an ornate chalice.

“I wasn’t planning on getting something that elaborate; it just happened,” he said.

Dcn. Jaconette, whose Mass of Ordination is open to the public and will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on May 31, said his priest’s chalice has a multi-century legacy.

“It was made by a Belgian silversmith in 1890,” said Dcn. Jaconette, who acquired it after discovering it was available in England. “I wanted something that’s old, that’s been a part of the sacrifice of the Mass for centuries, in keeping the Church and her traditions alive.”

The base of the chalice features images of St. James, St. Dominic, St. Andrew the Apostle, St. Teresa of Avila, and the Madonna and Child. It is made of silver, plated in gold, and has 12 pieces of pure blue lapis stones.

Dcn. Jaconette said lapis “is the rarest natural bright blue in the world,” and was used in ancient iconography to color Our Lady’s mantle.

To add a personal touch as the chalice is being refurbished, jewels will be set in it from Dcn. Jaconette’s parents and sister, such as his grandmother’s pearls, his great-grandmother’s rubies, and diamonds from his mother. His family also provided some gold jewelry that will be melted

down and used in the finish.

He said that unlike most chalices made today, which are mass-produced from a mold, this 17th-century chalice was handmade in multiple pieces that lock together with a screw at the base. It bears hand-done filigree, which the artisan restoring the chalice told Dcn. Jaconette is becoming a lost art.

The chalice’s history is interesting as well. On the base is an inscription dedicated to the priest and original owner who received it as a gift from his family for his 50th ordination anniversary. Dcn. Jaconette said the plan had been to flip that piece upside down and put his own name on the top side, and to retain the original inscription to keep the previous owner’s memory in mind. However, in the ongoing restoration, it was discovered that the chalice also bore another priest owner’s name from June 1, 1912.

“My first Mass will be celebrated on June 1,” said Dcn. Jaconette, adding that he chose to also keep that other priest’s name on the chalice to continue its holy legacy. His own name will now be inscribed below that priest’s name.

Dcn. Jaconette acknowledged that the diverse array of saints around the base, the variety of gems and colors, and the addition of his family’s various heirloom jewelry pieces, results in a chalice that has a lot going on.

But “I wanted a chalice that’s beautiful and chaotic, because that’s how my spirituality has been,” he said. “I will always be finding something new (to look at on the chalice).”

Another reason why he desired such an



COURTESY OF DCN. CONRAD JACONETTE
Dcn. Conrad Jaconette’s chalice is seen prior to its full restoration in this undated photo. The chalice will be completed in time for the seminarian’s priestly ordination on May 31, 2025.

elegant chalice is because he will eventually serve as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force (his seminary education is co-sponsored by both the Diocese of

Continues on page 11

Chalice continued from page 10



COURTESY OF DCN. CONRAD JACONETTE
A closeup of Dcn. Conrad Jaconette's chalice, depicting St. Teresa of Avila, is seen prior to its full restoration in this undated photo.

Owensboro and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A.). As a priest, he will celebrate Mass in many unconventional locations.

"I might be saying Mass on a picnic table," he said, but explained that with a chalice that speaks to the unseen reality of Christ's presence in the Eucharist, it will still "capture the beauty and magnitude of what's happening."

Dcn. Jaconette explained that creating beautiful vessels and other items for the liturgy illustrate how the faithful can use what God has provided through his creation, "and use it for his Mass," he said.

His chalice's "beautiful artistry – plus the family connection – show how we can bring what we have to the altar," he said. "This is a gift from my family, out of their love and support and sacrifice in giving up a son for the Church." ■

Twelve Ursuline Sisters celebrating jubilees of religious profession in 2025

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

A dozen Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph who have served a combined 790 years in service to God's people are celebrating jubilees of religious profession in 2025. Two are from Daviess County; three are from elsewhere in the Diocese of Owensboro; four grew up in the Archdiocese of Louisville, and three are from out of state. There will be a special jubilee celebration during Community Days at the Motherhouse in Maple Mount in July. To read more about the jubilarians and their ministries, visit the Ursuline Sisters' webpage: ursulinesmsj.org/category/jubilarians. Three jubilarians will be added to the webpage weekly from mid-April through mid-May. You

can also follow the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph on Facebook where we will be featuring each jubilarian: facebook.com/ursulinesmsj

Sr. Elaine Burke, a native of Louisville, is celebrating 75 years.

Sr. Marie Carol Cecil, a native of Howardstown (Nelson County), is celebrating 75 years.

Sr. Jane Falke, a native of Westphalia, Kan., is celebrating 70 years.

Sister Margaret Marie Greenwell, a native of New Haven (Nelson County), is celebrating 70 years.

Sr. Francis Louise Johnson, who was born in Waverly (Union County) and grew up in Mayfield (Graves County), is celebrating 70 years.



WITH PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD,
THE DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY
AND
THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA
WITH THE FAMILY OF

CONRAD THOMAS JACONETTE

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THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE AT HIS

**ORDINATION TO THE
SACRED ORDER OF THE PRESBYTERATE**

THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND
THE INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BY THE

PRESIDING BISHOP AND MINISTER OF ORDINATION
MOST REVEREND WILLIAM F. MEDLEY, D.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

WITH
PRINCIPAL CONCELEBRANT
MOST REVEREND GREGG M. CAGGIANELLI
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A.

ON SATURDAY, THE THIRTY FIRST DAY OF MAY
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FIVE
AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, CENTRAL TIME

SAINT STEPHEN CATHEDRAL
610 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301
A reception will follow.

Sr. Catherine Marie Lauterwasser, a native of Owensboro, is celebrating 70 years.

Sr. Mary Ellen Backes, a native of Minot, N.D., is celebrating 60 years.

Sr. Marie Joseph Coomes, a native of St. Lawrence (Daviess County), is celebrating 60 years.

Sr. Barbara Jean Head, a native of New Haven (Nelson County), is celebrating 60 years.

Sr. Mary Henning, a native of Axtel (Breckinridge County), is celebrating 60 years.

Sr. Ann McGrew, a native of Clarkson (Grayson County), is celebrating 60 years.

Sr. Emma Anne Munsterman, a native of Mount Vernon, Ind., is celebrating 60 years. ■

‘The Word remains the same’

Diocesan faithful celebrate Holy Week with bishop



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Kennedy Payne, serving as the crucifer, holds the processional cross adorned with red ribbon and palms during the April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday liturgy at St. Stephen Cathedral, the mother church of the Diocese of Owensboro.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

During this year’s Diocese of Owensboro Chrism Mass, held on the Tuesday of Holy Week, Bishop William F. Medley challenged the faithful to recognize all people’s inherent dignity.

“Image and likeness” does not mean “one skin color or one language,” said the bishop in his April 15 homily to those sitting in the bleachers of the Owensboro Sportscenter, where Chrism Mass was held. “It means all are created with immense and unlimited human dignity and worth.”

“It is unsettling, it is evil, it is a sin that in our nation today there are many voices all too ready to deny the dignity of others created in God’s image,”



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley pours balsam into the oil that he will consecrate as Sacred Chrism during the diocese’s April 15, 2025 Chrism Mass, held at the Owensboro Sportscenter.

said Bishop Medley. “It is sinful that as the richest nation in the history of the world we seem to deny any responsibility to share the bounty of God’s creation with the poorest in our midst and around the world.”

The bishop also called the people of the diocese to embrace the Jubilee 2025, which had been given the theme of “hope” by Pope Francis.

The universal Church was called to reflect upon the Church “as a community, as pilgrims of hope,” said the bishop. “Much changes – but the Word remains the same.”

Apart from the liturgy at the sportscenter, the bishop presided at the other Holy Week liturgies at St. Stephen Cathedral, the mother church of the Owensboro diocese, as is tradition. ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC

During the Washing of the Feet portion of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025, at the cathedral, Bishop William F. Medley greets baby Andrew Best before washing his feet.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

During the Washing of the Feet portion of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025, at the cathedral, Bishop William F. Medley is assisted by Dcn. Conrad Jaconette, a seminarian for the Diocese of Owensboro.

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A woman kisses the cross held by two altar servers during the Veneration of the Cross at St. Stephen Cathedral's Good Friday liturgy on April 18, 2025.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Lector Eddy McFarland, rector Fr. John Thomas, and Bishop William F. Medley participate in the reading of the Passion narrative at St. Stephen Cathedral's Good Friday liturgy on April 18, 2025.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley baptizes Matt Galloway during the April 19 Easter Vigil at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley confirms those entering the Catholic Church during the April 19 Easter Vigil at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. The cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky.

A stormy spring sends western Kentucky community into recovery mode



COURTESY OF JOSH BENNETT

Floodwaters cover Smothers Park and creep up Veterans Boulevard in downtown Owensboro on April 9, 2025, during historic rains and flooding that impacted the region.



COURTESY OF RUTH ANN THOMPSON

In the distance, Fr. John Okoro boards a boat to reach St. Elizabeth Parish in Curdsville, whose roads were cut off from historic flooding on April 13. Thanks to the boat ride, Fr. Okoro was able to celebrate Palm Sunday Mass for his Curdsville parishioners



COURTESY OF MARIANNA ROMERO

Fr. John Okoro, far right, takes a boat driven by George Shadler, far left, after celebrating Palm Sunday Mass at St. Elizabeth Parish in Curdsville on April 13, 2025. The man in the center is unknown, as he requested and received a ride across the floodwaters that day on their way back.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fr. John Okoro never expected to be taken to church by boat in order to celebrate Mass for his parishioners, but on April 13, Palm Sunday, that's exactly what he did.

In the weeks leading up to Palm Sunday, western Kentucky and surrounding regions experienced record-breaking rain and historic flooding. This followed the disastrous hailstorms that had struck portions of the Diocese of Owensboro in the early hours of March 15.

"On Saturday evening, I wasn't sure," said Fr.

Okoro, the pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish in St. Joseph (where he resides) and St. Elizabeth Parish in Curdsville. "People were calling to ask if there would be Mass at St. Elizabeth."

"I said, 'Let's see if there is a miracle,'" he said. But by Sunday morning, the roads into Curdsville were too flooded and blocked off.

"There would be no Mass (in Curdsville)," said Fr. Okoro. "It was really troubling my heart."

The Church permits the pastoral accommodation of a simple Communion service to be celebrated by the lay faithful in the extreme occasion that a priest cannot be present. Fr. Okoro had arranged with his St. Elizabeth parishioners to do this, but

it saddened him that they would lack the full Palm Sunday experience with no priest to bless the palms.

While vesting to celebrate Mass at St. Alphonsus that morning, however, Fr. Okoro was approached by parishioner George Shadler who offered the use of his boat. He agreed immediately, called St. Elizabeth, and soon as Mass concluded at St. Alphonsus, he joined Shadler to drive out to his boat.

"He gave me a life jacket, I put it on," said Fr. Okoro, describing that in sections the flooding was estimated to be 12 feet deep. "At one point the engine stopped working! And as we got closer (to

Continues on page 15

Storms continued from page 14



COURTESY OF BEN WARRELL

The washed-away road into Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center is seen in early April, after flooding destroyed the recently completed chip sealing that had made the road safer for travel. The staff saw the extent of the damage after the floodwater receded and confirmed that the road will need to be repaired once again.

Curdsville) we had to do some paddling. Then we arrived and got into a car and drove to St. Elizabeth.”

Parishioners were already gathered to celebrate the Communion service, and warmly welcomed their pastor.

“That’s what made the beginning of Holy Week complete,” he said. “It was a miracle, actually.”

Flooded camp

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green experienced serious consequences from the flood waters that encroached on its property.

Crystal Coleman, the office manager and registrar at Gasper, said in an April 8 phone call that

the camp’s new chip-sealed driveway, completed last year, was wrecked by the flooding.

“It wasn’t that the waters were that high there, but it washed away the chip-sealing,” said Coleman. “We were able to patch a bit of it with gravel (for the time being). And the low elements were under water so we lost a couple of pieces.”

Part of the platform for the zip line was also under water when the Gasper River encroached onto the camp property – the highest Coleman has ever seen.

She said the staff is grateful that they didn’t experience as much damage as they could have, and that “we’ll have camp this summer as usual, but the driveway is back to being in rough shape like it was before.”

Hail recovery

Multiple Diocese of Owensboro sites are still in recovery from the hail damage, including properties of the Owensboro Catholic School System.

On April 15, exactly one month after the hailstorms struck their school, Owensboro Catholic Middle School’s principal, Michelle Magan, told The Western Kentucky Catholic that they are looking forward to a new roof.

The school was so damaged that classes were on NTI (non-traditional instruction, also known as virtual learning) for a week after the storms, but they were able to come in after that – albeit with strategically-placed trash cans to catch ceiling rainwater leaks.

Magan said OCMS had already been in the process of receiving bids for a new roof when the hail came, so this set them back to square one.

Still, “our maintenance staff did a fantastic job,” she said, describing their commitment to creating a safe and functional learning environment for the students.

Volunteer today!



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DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

We are seeking volunteers to help with intake/paperwork for flooding & storm disaster survivors across Kentucky & surrounding regions.

To learn how to help, contact Tina Hawley at (270) 702-5074.

To donate to our Disaster Relief Fund, scan the QR code and select “Disaster Relief for Western Kentucky.”



Continues on page 16

Storms continued from page 15

The school is no longer using its gym, as the roof and ceiling were so damaged that pieces of the ceiling are at risk of falling down.

But “there have been no major problems since we came back in person,” said Magan. “The team and students did great on NTI, and we’re just trying to get through the end of the school year.”

“We’re back in business and everything is going well,” she said. “We’re looking forward to a new roof for sure.”

Witnessing care

Brescia University in Owensboro continues to move forward amid the hailstorm aftermath that significantly impacted numerous portions of the campus.

Madison Silvert, Brescia’s president, said that

there have been “countless prayers” and an attitude of “how can we best frame this tragedy in a way that gives glory to God?”

“Often in situations such as these, it is easy for us to concentrate on the material,” said Silvert. “Yes, we have severe damage. Yes, it must be fixed, and, yes, it does matter. However, we all recognize that what matters most is that we were spared of injury. As a campus, we give thanks for that every day.”

He said the greatest challenge to the university is the sheer size of its deductible.

“With almost every building suffering damage to some degree, it has created a situation where each building’s deductible has to be met,” he said. “The result is about \$1 million out of pocket for the university.”

He emphasized Brescia’s charism of “caritas,” that is, love of God and one another, and that central to that philosophy is “we all want what is best for each other.”

“What was most impressive through the damage was just how immediately everyone was concerned about others,” he said. “It was beautiful to witness.” ■

- To support Gasper River’s road repairs, visit gasperriverretreatcenter.org/support-gasper-river.
- To support Owensboro Catholic Schools’ storm recovery, visit owensborocatholic.org/support-ocs.
- To support Brescia University’s disaster relief fund, visit brescia.edu/give.

‘Faith helped me to stay grounded’ Recalling Vietnam 50 years after war’s end

BY ANDY TELLI, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fifty years ago, on April 30, 1975, the last Americans in Saigon scrambled onto a helicopter atop the U.S. embassy to escape the advancing North Vietnamese army. The chaotic exit ended the United States’ involvement in one of the longest wars in our nation’s history.

By the time the last American left Vietnam, the war was only a memory for Mike Howard, a member of Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro who served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army from July 1967 to July 1968.

“I put it all behind me” after returning home, Howard said.

He grew up in the Whitesville community of Daviess County, was a parishioner at St. Mary of the Woods Parish there, and graduated from St. Mary High School in 1963.

In 1965, a local Army recruiter let Howard’s mother know that his draft number was coming up. Instead of waiting to be drafted, Howard enlisted and left for boot camp in September of that year. Not quite two years later, Howard shipped out for Vietnam.

“I was a little concerned. I didn’t know what to think,” Howard said. “But there was no way of



COURTESY OF MIKE HOWARD

Mike Howard, a Precious Blood parishioner, strikes a pose while on guard duty in Vietnam. Howard served from 1967-1968.

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Vietnam 50 years continued from page 16

getting out of it, so I went.”

Howard was stationed at a communications facility on Monkey Mountain near Da Nang operating the large generators that provided electricity for the communications equipment.

He still remembers the poverty of the local Vietnamese people. He and the other American soldiers would take their trash, including cardboard boxes that supplies had been shipped in, to the nearby dump. “As soon as we hit that dump all the kids 7, 8, 9, 10, would fight each other to get the best piece of cardboard because that was shingles for their hut,” Howard said.

Howard was fortunate that he avoided any combat while in Vietnam. But not everyone was so lucky. Howard remembers people he knew

from Whitesville who were wounded or killed in Vietnam.

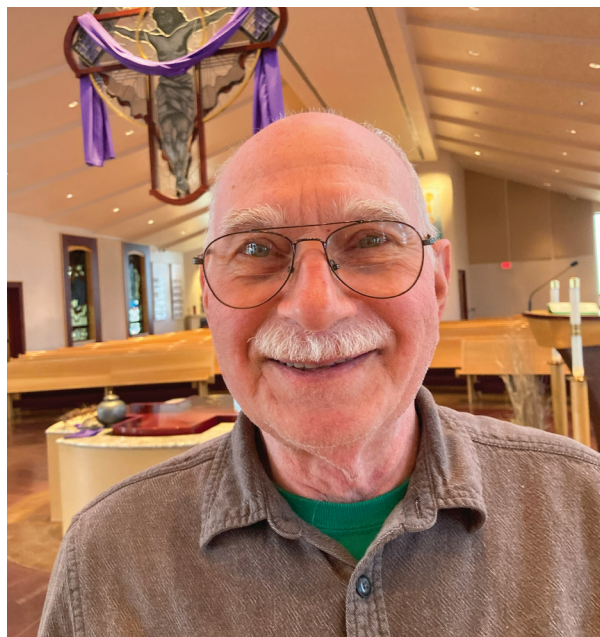
Frank Mason was serving in the Army in Germany at the time, but the war in Vietnam was a constant presence. “I worried about it all the time I was there,” said Mason, a parishioner at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro. “I didn’t want to go kill nobody, and I didn’t want nobody to kill me. It was constantly on your mind whether you were there or not.”

Mason grew up in Hawesville and was drafted in 1968. He ended up as a tank commander in Germany, part of NATO’s line of defense in the case of an invasion of Europe by the Soviet Union.

“There were young guys that were in my unit who would volunteer to transfer to Vietnam,” Mason recalled. “We got the ‘Army Times’ newspaper that listed all of the soldiers that had died that week, and usually within two weeks these young men were dead.”

Faith helped Mason through those times. “Faith helped me to stay grounded because I knew God was on my side, and I knew He was going to take care of me,” he said.

Mason recalls being happy when the U.S. finally pulled out of Vietnam. “I felt like it was about time we got out because we were in a war we never should have been in,” he said. “I hoped everybody came back safely to their families.” ■



ANDY TELLI | WKC

Mike Howard, seen at his home parish of Precious Blood in Owensboro, served in Vietnam from July 1967 to July 1968. He grew up in Whitesville, was a parishioner at St. Mary of the Woods Parish there, and graduated from St. Mary High School in 1963.



COURTESY OF FRANK MASON

Frank Mason, a parishioner of Sts. Joseph and Paul in Owensboro, was drafted in 1968. During the Vietnam war he ended up as a tank commander in Germany, part of NATO’s line of defense in the case of an invasion of Europe by the Soviet Union.


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Making a paws-itive impact at Owensboro Catholic Middle School

New therapy dog program to provide comfort, stress relief



RILEY GRIEF | WKC

Marisa Blades, the owner and trainer for SOS Canine Training in Owensboro, sits with therapy-dog-in-training, Riley, on Feb. 18, 2025.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When Lucy and Riley visit Owensboro Catholic Middle School as part of their ongoing training and instruction, faces immediately light up around them.

“It makes your day to see them just walking in the halls,” said Max Rashidian, an eighth grader.

Lucy and Riley are not typical visitors.

In fact, they’re not even people: the two are therapy dogs in training, participating in a program coordinated by the school’s guidance counselor,

Leah Schwindel.

“It’s been a dream of mine for a long, long time,” said Schwindel, which goes back to when she worked in Hancock County and observed school therapy dogs providing significant “stress relief for the kids.”

Schwindel presented the idea to the administration of Owensboro Catholic School System, and after receiving the green light, began researching therapy dogs in schools to see how OCMS would best benefit from such a program.

In researching trainers, she came across Marisa Blades, the owner and trainer for SOS Canine Training.

Blades has trained dogs for about 13 years in Owensboro, Louisville, Lexington, and the surrounding areas – and was happy to join Schwindel in this initiative.

“(Therapy dogs) can change a kid’s day in a second,” said Blades. “You might have a kid having a lousy day, trouble at home, and just connecting with a dog is priceless. It’s a huge stress reliever for kids. I see it every day.”

Schwindel adopted Lucy in spring 2024. She began bringing the then-eight-week-old puppy into school after the semester ended in May. Throughout summer break, she continued bringing Lucy to the school so the dog could acclimate to the building before the students returned.

Lucy’s sister and littermate, Riley, joined them in August.

Schwindel said that the breeder reached out to her after she adopted Lucy to see if she would

like the pup’s sister, and she agreed, noting Riley’s qualities that would also make her a good therapy dog.

But after having both for about a month, Schwindel realized that the two, as sisters and littermates, were not doing well in their training in a home together “because they want to focus on each other, not on you, to train,” she said.

Fortunately, Brett Downing, the media specialist and technology teacher at the middle school, expressed interest in her family adopting Riley and continuing with the pup’s training.

“Once I had (Riley) I realized she’d be really good for this program as well, and I hated to not have the opportunity to have both,” said Schwindel. “Brett was really committed to doing that as well.”

With Blades’ guidance, Schwindel and Downing began bringing the dogs to visit the classrooms this semester. They are pleased to see the positive impact Lucy and Riley have had among the kids.

“They’re great, supporting, really calming to pet,” said eighth-grader Raegan Leach. “Whenever they’re walking around and visiting classes it’s just really fun.”

Sophie Moss, a fellow eighth grader, agreed.

“When I’m going through a hard time, the dogs cheer me up because I really like dogs!” she said. “They can come to visit from time to time but a lot of the time they’re up in the office and you can go see them and stuff.”

Downing said she loves participating in the program as Riley’s owner.

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Therapy dog continued from page 18



RILEY GRIEF | WKC
Dalton Condor, an eighth grader at Owensboro Catholic Middle School, visits with therapy-dogs-in-training, Lucy and Riley, on Feb. 18, 2025.

“I think the center of our school has always been growing our faith and keeping these kids close to God,” she said, explaining that youth in this age group experience a lot of changes and emotions that can be difficult to handle.

“A lot of that (focus), especially at this age with middle school students, is providing them that comfort,” she said. “I think those dogs really bring that comfort and peace; that really brings that all together.”

Blades said the dogs will soon take the American Kennel Club’s Canine Good Citizen test, a 10-skill test that teaches good manners and confirms that the dogs behave well with humans.

“Therapy dogs have to be good, and have to have manners,” said Blades.

After Lucy and Riley pass the test, they will venture into their intensive training to fully certify them as therapy dogs for OCMS.

Schwindel said that even though the dogs have not yet completed their training, the pups are already “very tuned in” to interacting with students who need a little more support and comfort.

“Even in the hallway, they will spot out those kids that they know need the ‘extra’ and they will go to them,” she said. “It’s such a bond that they have together.” ■

St. Romuald Interparochial School dedicates new greenhouse educational area

BY RACHEL HALL, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On April 21, 2025, St. Romuald Interparochial School in Hardinsburg held a special dedication ceremony for its new greenhouse educational area. This exciting addition to the school’s campus will provide hands-on learning opportunities for students in science, agriculture, and environmental stewardship. The school community gathered to celebrate the project, which reflects a growing commitment to outdoor and experiential education. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID KESSLER, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT
School board members, parents and other guests walk around the new facility at St. Romuald Parochial School on April 21, 2025.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID KESSLER, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT
Students lay out hand painted stepping-stones during the dedication of the new greenhouse for St. Romuald Parochial School on April 21, 2025.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

The cast of Mary Carrico Catholic School students who participated in the April 18 “The Trial of Jesus” reenactment at St. William Parish in Knottsville pose for a picture.

Mary Carrico students present ‘The Trial of Jesus’ prayer service

BY RACHEL HALL, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Good Friday, April 18, 2025, students in grades 5-8 at Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville hosted a special Lenten prayer service entitled “The Trial of Jesus” at St. William Parish in Knottsville.

Written by Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner, OSU, who also teaches middle school religion at MCCS, the service was designed to help both students and attendees reflect deeply on the life, teachings, and crucifixion of Jesus. Presented as a dramatic reenactment, the students wore costumes and portrayed key figures from Jesus’ time on earth.

Each student researched the New Testament scripture themselves and took on a role of a witness – that is, someone who encountered Jesus and that were personally shaped by His message. The reenactment led up to His crucifixion and concluded with a powerful question posed to the audience: “Who is Jesus for you?” ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Mary Carrico Catholic School students portray Jesus and other biblical figures in the Passion narrative during the April 18 “The Trial of Jesus” reenactment at St. William Parish.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner, OSU, a middle school religion teacher at Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville, speaks to the students participating in the April 18 “The Trial of Jesus” reenactment at St. William Parish.

You are invited to an Acts 2:42 small group celebration



COURTESY OF APRIL DUNN

Parishioners from St. John the Evangelist in Paducah, participating in an Acts 2:42 small group, pose for a picture at one of their monthly sessions.

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, EVANGELIZATION & DISCIPLESHIP

Calling all Acts 2:42 participants! Although May is a busy season, we are celebrating the value of having small groups in our parishes throughout the diocese and especially those who have participated in the Acts 2:42 Eucharistic Revival small groups. All parish small group coordinators, Acts 2:42 host team leaders, and small group participants are invited to attend.

The date is Sunday, May 18 and we begin with a 4 p.m. Mass celebrated with Bishop Medley, followed by a nice dinner and conversation. It will run 4-6:30 p.m. The event will be held at The Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville. Register at owensborodiocese.org/actsdinner.

We are aware that many participants cannot attend, but we will gather with those that are able and celebrate the move of the Holy Spirit throughout the National Eucharistic Revival in our diocese. Over 2,000 people have been involved in at least one of the two years of

our Acts 2:42 groups and this includes both English and Spanish-speaking members.

There is a new book out by Michael White and Tom Corcoran titled “The Transformative Power of Small Groups” and I just read it. I wish I wrote it! It is excellent and right on. Our Catholic parishes need to be places of rich community, where we share life and mission. To foster this, there is no better way than small groups. In the book they mention the need for parishes to become a “community of small groups” rather than a parish that has a few small groups. And they show all the transforming things that take place in parishes that embrace small group ministry.

They mention the deep need for greater personal connections in our parishes. That groups are a place to mutually encourage one another in faith and lead to positive life change and growth in participants’ lives. Additionally, they are places of great pastoral care for one another, make communication much more effective, and increase the fruit of the mission in the parish.

Additionally, welcoming new members into a small

group is the best way to connect them and help them to feel that they belong, leading to greater involvement.

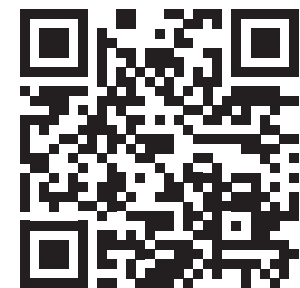
We know that all of us are so busy with our lives that it does not seem possible to fit another thing. But ask anyone who has participated in a parish small group, and you will find that it was a meaningful experience that led to personal growth. And if not, encourage them to give it one more try!

While our Acts 2:42 small groups are coming to an end in May, our small group ministries are not. Bishop Medley will be offering a new series titled “In the Word with Bishop Medley.” It begins in September and runs monthly through May. Many Acts 2:42 groups will continue and participate, and all parishes are encouraged to participate. Want more information? Contact me. We will offer leader training and promotional materials this summer! Happy Easter!

Peace,
Jeff

Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship and can be reached at jeff.andrini@pastoral.org.

To RSVP, visit owensborodiocese.org/actsdinner



Eucharistic people of hope: From revival to jubilee



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

On March 23, 2025, pilgrims carry the Jubilee of Hope cross while walking in a procession to the holy doors at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

BY DCN. JAY W. VANHOOSIER, OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

As the United States Church concludes its National Eucharistic Revival and the global Church continues through the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, we find ourselves at a remarkable intersection of grace. The Spirit is clearly stirring something deep within the Body of Christ – calling us to rediscover who we are and how we are to live: as Eucharistic people of hope.

The Eucharistic Revival invited us to rekindle our love for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Through processions, adoration, catechesis, and personal encounter, Catholics across the country were drawn closer to Christ in the Eucharist. This wasn't just a moment of spiritual renewal – it was a movement of identity. In the Eucharist, we encounter Jesus who gives Himself totally for us, not as a distant memory, but as a living,

saving reality.

Now, as we turn toward the Jubilee Year of Hope, declared by Pope Francis, we are reminded that hope is not a vague optimism. It is the confident assurance that God is with us, especially in times of uncertainty. The Eucharist and hope are intimately linked. In every celebration of the Mass, we proclaim the death of the Lord “until he comes.” We look backward to the Cross and forward to the Kingdom. We live, in every Eucharist, the tension between what has already been fulfilled and what is still to come.

To be a Eucharistic people is to be a hopeful people. We are nourished not only to be comforted, but to be sent. The Eucharist is both an encounter and a mission. In receiving Christ, we are strengthened to become Christ for the world – witnesses to a hope that does not disappoint.

The theme of the Jubilee – “Pilgrims of Hope” – echoes this mission. Just as the Revival reminded us of the centrality of the Eucharist, the Jubilee calls us to carry that presence into the world. The Church, always on pilgrimage, walks with humanity through its trials and joys. In the face of war, division, despair, and doubt, the world is hungry for a witness to hope. And it is precisely the Eucharistic people – those who know the presence of Christ in the breaking of the bread – who are best equipped to offer it.

We are called to be signs of unity in a fractured world, agents of reconciliation in divided communities, and bearers of joy where sorrow lingers. The Eucharist forms us for this mission. It shapes our hearts in gratitude, teaches us to lay down our lives in love, and roots us in the unshakable promise that God is faithful.

As we move from revival into jubilee, from renewal into hope, let us not leave behind what we've received. Let us deepen it. Let every parish be a sanctuary of hope, every household a place of Eucharistic love, and every Catholic a living sign that Christ is alive and still giving Himself for the life of the world.

We are, and must continue to become, Eucharistic people of hope – at all times, in all places. The world needs this witness now more than ever. ■

Dcn. Jay W. VanHoosier is the Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Owensboro. For more information visit owensborodiocese.org/faith-formation, email jay.vanhoosier@pastoral.org or call (270) 852-8324.

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Region V youth and young adult leaders gather at Gasper River



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY

(Left photo) Mark Oestreicher shares the six values great youth ministries embrace and taught about the need for belonging during the April 8-10 NFCYM (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry) Region V meeting, held at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green. (Right photo) Members of NFCYM (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry) Region V visit Meltdown, a downtown Bowling Green ice cream shop, during their April 8-10 gathering.

BY CHARLIE HARDESTY, OFFICE OF
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Every year, the members of NFCYM (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry) from Region V (Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana) gather for an in-person meeting. This meeting is a time of training, networking, regional business, and prayer. This year, the Diocese of Owensboro hosted this meeting at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green from April 8-10.

The Region V meeting is attended by diocesan directors of youth ministry, organizations that serve young people, and associate members who often consist of parish youth ministry leaders. This year there were 11 leaders present at the meeting all week and another 14 leaders attended the training day.

Highlights of the week included a great day of training on youth ministry with Mark Oestreicher.

Mark is a veteran youth worker with over 40 years' experience. He shared the six values great youth ministries embrace and taught about the need for belonging. Another highlight was an evening spent on the campus at Western Kentucky University hosting dinner at the Newman Center and spending time with the students in fellowship and prayer. The group from Region V also had Mass with Bishop Medley and found time to go to Meltdown for a special ice cream tasting experience with Susan Warrell.

It was an honor to host the 2025 Region V meeting in the Diocese of Owensboro and expose leaders from our region to the ministry of Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and the Newman Center at WKU. ■

Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry.



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The overlooked ‘now’ of the Church: To help young adults embrace the truths of Catholicism, meet them where they are



COURTESY OF KARINA ROMERO

(Left photo) The first St. Stephen Cathedral Young Adult Cooking Class with rector Fr. John M. Thomas, where they learned to make meatloaf and smashed potatoes on Nov. 17, 2022. These classes now meet regularly. (Center photo) St. Stephen Cathedral young adult women with bouquets made during 2025 Galentine's Girls Night. (Right photo) Young adults outside Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis following the conclusion of the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024.

BY KARINA ROMERO, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When looking around our parishes, there is a population that appears to be missing: young adults. How can the Catholic Church of western Kentucky help young adults find a spiritual home in our communities when the number of young adults engaged in parish life seems to be dwindling? After moving to Owensboro, I was moved to begin a young adult ministry after encountering others in my parish who were also in desperate need of community. Through reflecting on my experiences, and those of young adults throughout the diocese, this is how I believe we can better care for this often-overlooked demographic.

We are here!

Though often perceived as absent, there are young adults in your pews desiring to be seen and supported. Many young adults feel forgotten in the years between youth ministry and family life. Going

to Mass by themselves is daunting, so go out of your way to greet young adults, invite them to coffee and donuts, and tell them you are happy they are there!

We want to live holy lives.

Dissatisfied by what the world offers, many young adults are seeking truth and stability in the Church. Young adults desire to understand Church teaching and the reasoning behind it. In determining their future, they yearn for more exposure to all the vocations and guidance for discernment. Can your parish be a place where young adults find truth?

We need community and mentors to walk with us.

As young adults transition into parish life, they are seeking a community of peers to journey alongside and mentors to guide them through this phase of life. In my experience, small groups of young adults that meet regularly to study, pray, and share life gives a sense of belonging and community. Another way to care for young adults is to provide opportunities for mentorship and share your own faith journey. You can invite them to join your prayer group, attend a

retreat, or simply join you for brunch after Mass.

We have so much to offer!

We don't want to wait until we have families to be involved in parish life. We have gifts to share, an important perspective to hear, and a desire to be viewed as an integral part of the community. Young adults want to use their talents to build up the Church, but often need to be invited to take the first step. Look at your parish council, committees, and ministries. Are young adults present?

We aren't the future of the Church – we are the now!

As the Church strives to be a spiritual home for young adults, we ask one thing: meet us where we are and walk with us. We have hearts on fire for the Lord and want to spread His love to those we encounter. We are eager to be Christ's hands and feet in the world but need your support and wisdom. We are ready to, in the words of Pope Francis, "Make a ruckus!" ■

Karina Romero is the director of youth and young adult ministry for St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

Holy Redeemer's 2025 Confirmation class is 'Here to Serve'

BY GAIL CRITCHELOW, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The 2025 Confirmation class of Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam are taking their journey to being confirmed very seriously. Taking on the theme of "Here to Serve," the class have red t-shirts they wear at the Masses they attend every weekend to greet and help all parishioners, especially those in wheelchairs and the elderly as they enter church for Mass. Their journey to "serve" is teaching them the value of giving of themselves without expectation of getting anything in return. The following comments are from the class as they share individually what the phrase "Here to Serve" means to them.

Andres Garcia: Those are the exact same words Jesus said to his disciples, and these words have been carried on for generations and now it has made it to us. Serving people is hard but even so, Jesus tells us to serve anyway and we will get our reward.

Nayeli Menjivar: It means to me helping elderly people or anybody else, and having a kind heart and not judge people. Here to Serve helps teens like me to help out knowing that the Lord God did the same thing.

Leslie Guillen: It means to me helping me get closer to God and help our community.

Jazmin Menjivar: To me it means helping others



COURTESY OF GAIL CRITCHELOW

The 2025 Confirmation class of Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam is seen wearing their red "Here to Serve" t-shirts.

if they need anything during Mass and making sure they know they are welcomed to our church.

Ave Avila: It means we are to serve other people no matter where they are from and to be kind to each other.

Brandly Corona: It means I am here to help others and serve God and that I am responsible to be here when I choose to volunteer. I want to show inspiration to my peers and encourage others to come to the Catholic church.

Carter Burdette: It is a symbol of helpfulness, kindness and the way to help our community. When I was wearing my shirt, a man told me that he really liked my shirt because his brother always said the same thing. It gave me a sense of pride that we aren't the only ones and even though I may only be handing out papers in front of the church, it means so much more.

Zoey Wise: To me it means I am here to serve the community and my church.

Vanessa Bautista: When I hear "to serve" to me it means I am here to meet and help people.

Juana Gregorio: It means to me that I can greet

and help people.

Maria F. Grajales: It means to me helping other people and that is good.

Greidys Sandria-Arce: Wearing my "Here to Serve" shirt means to help serve our community and others and helping our church be better every day! We represent kindness and our church.

Eva Payne: "Here to Serve" – the act of serving shows love and humbleness. These are not just simple words on a shirt, they represent us all acting as Jesus would have and helping others. It shows the opportunity that everyone can help no matter their social standpoint, and it represents being active in your community to work towards growing as a group.

Kyra Webster: It means that I am a part of this Church, that I am a child of God. I get the opportunity to serve my church and show my community I'm proud to be a Catholic. But also during my journey of Confirmation I get to help others and become closer with the Catholic community. It is a great opportunity to show people I want to be here and I want to be Catholic, but most of all to show Jesus

Continues on page 26

'Here to serve' continued from page 25

and God that I respect them and their house of God.

Anna Payne: My shirt means a lot to me as a whole. When I put on this shirt the whole atmosphere changes. I become a pillar for the church and take over the responsibilities and duties that wearing the shirt brings. I wear this shirt with pride and honor knowing I am able to be in a position to help my church and community. I am so joyful to be part of a church community that partakes in many helpful ways for its people. Our church does this to represent Jesus and all of His kindness and giving to others, meaning we serve like Him and for Him.

Maria J. Grajales: I think it means to help people who need help during Mass and we wear the shirts so they know who is here to help them whenever.

Angie Abundio: It means to me is putting yourself out there and giving out to people to serve. The shirt that states this quote has me feeling like a good person since I'm making it clear to people out there that I'm there at church to serve.

Emily Valdez-Tejeda: It means having the knowledge of all good things that happen in a beautiful church that has patience for all of us.

Skyler Webster: This program is important to me because it allows me to give back to the church. This program teaches me responsibility while also allowing me to connect with church members. My red shirt shows my love for my community and church.

Aretzy Abundio: It means to me that wherever I go I'll always serve the Lord, and how I present Him with how I lead and help others.

Hadrian Kramer: It means to me to serve by helping those in need and being more focused to church and God. Also to be more prepared, since we are going to be the new generation of Catholics and being more engaged in church by wearing the

red shirts and singing the songs so people will see you as ready young adults and see how you are ready to take on the responsibility of the church.

Tristan S. Arce: It means helping my community and being a bigger part of my church. When I wear that shirt I feel empowered because I am helping the Lord by helping others. Even if I'm not doing much I know it will lead to bigger and better things, because even just a greeting can make someone's day.

Jonah Payne: The shirts mean to be present in the church and the community. But to me it means to help and be active. It shows love and kindness to the people of the church.

Maria L. Gomez: For me the shirt means I show that I love God more than anyone else and he is my salvation in this life. He gives me life every day and takes care of me everywhere. I love Him so much and I would never stop loving Him and I go to church to show people that I do love God and God for me is very important to me in this life. He is the first in my life and the shirt represents God and for God I would do whatever.

Juana Lopez: For me, my "Here to Serve" shirt is very important because it represents my church and Jesus and I love to come to church.

Ketzia Mora-Arce: It means to me is to actively contribute and help others within the church community. It demonstrates love and compassion through actions like volunteering, supporting others, helping others, and fulfilling needs where possible. It emphasizes the idea of selflessness and putting others' needs before your own. It shows responsibility and accountability. ■

Gail Critchelow is the religious education coordinator for Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam.

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Congratulations to the Class of 2025 – Diocesan Schools

As an annual tradition for our May issue, The Western Kentucky Catholic requests from the high schools and parishes within the Diocese of Owensboro, the names of graduating high school seniors. Inquiries about these names may be directed to the corresponding schools or parishes. Please note: This information reflects what the WKC received by its press deadline and may not represent the status of final grades.

Trinity High School, Whitesville	St. Mary High School, Paducah	Owensboro Catholic High School, Owensboro	Cooper Harl	Joseph Watts	Noah O’Nan
Hayden Aull	Bradyn Barnett	Aaron Glahn	Corbin Atherton	Josephine Pinkston	Olivia Castlen
Blaise Barnett	Ava Campbell	Abbigail Powers	Dereon Crowe	Kail Kabalen	Olivia Girten
Hope Boarman	Caroline Crider	Addison Byrne	Easton Roark	Karmin Riley	Parker Hayden
Corbyn Coomes	Claire Fleming	Addison Hope	Elizabeth Wright	Kathryn Riney	Parker Heistand
Carson Fitzgerald	Sutton Griffin	Alexa Medina	Ella Cason	Laura Scheidegger	Patrick Hauke
Caroline Hall	Brett Haas	Alexis Ebelhar	Ella Johnston	Lily Rodriguez	Reaghan Thompson
Braxton Hamilton	Haden Horbovetz	Andi Davis	Ellyssa Danner	Logan Wood	Reese Keller
Connor Hatfield	Ryan Jones	Annie Roberts	Emily Hayden	Lucas Beickman	Savannah Crabtree
Will Hernandez	Olivia Lorch	Aubrey Randolph	Ethan Wimsatt	Lucas Gorman	Savannah Lewis
Bransen Howard	Keller McCabe	Bartholomew Pheh	Evelyn Hayden	Luke Ebelhar	Savannah Sprague
Steven James	Katherine O’Neill	Benjamin Dawson	Grace Blincoe	Luke Quinn	Seth Frey
Brady McBrayer	Skylar Padon	Brady Atwell	Grace Brasher	Mackenzie Goodwin	Simon Ferguson
Emily McDaniel	Samantha Potter	Brady Clark	Gracelynn Seaton	Madalynn Bugg	Sophia Hayden
Madison McDaniel	Jonathan Rupp	Brena Ackerman	Gracie Dukate	Madeleine Kanipe	Stephen Eaves
Kenzie McDowell	Alexandra Seibert	Brianna Buchanan	Grayson Goodwin	Madeline Burshears	Tanner McFadden
Addison Mills	Sydney Seibert	Briley Powers	Hannah Phelps	Marley Baize	Taylor Clouse
Sarah Payne	Luke Sims	Cady Fulkerson	Hannah Tignor	Matthew Amburgey	Tianna Clements
Ava Preston	Victor Vannatter	Calvin Padgett	Hayden Crabtree	Matthew Hillyard	Travis Weafer
Hunter Roberts	Brenden Wielgos	Carmen Brauer	Matthew Hyland	Matthew Payne	Tucker Ray
Olivia Ward	Natalie Wielgos	Chance Martin	Matthew Payne	Mauricio Santos-	Tyranda Stuart
Nathan Wathen	Landon Willett	Charles Mowen	Gonzalez, Jr.	Michael Lyon	Tyson Harville
	Zayna Yazigi	Chloe Calitri	Michael Lyon	Nicholas Hines	Vincent Carrico
		Christopher Burns	Nicholas Phister	Nicholas Phister	Waryn Ebelhar
		Christopher Rhoads			

Congratulations to the Class of 2025 – Non-Diocesan Schools

Editor’s note: These include students from public schools, homeschool, private non-Catholic schools and Catholic schools outside the Diocese of Owensboro. Congratulations, Class of 2025! Please note: This list includes the information provided by press time, and may not reflect the status of final grades.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro	Austin Murray	Kacee Butler	Isaac Krampe	Derek Will	Karleigh Skylar Brown
Molly Aud	Jackson Shoemaker	Kate Cassidy	Isaiah Lawing	Aiden Yates	Makadin Daugherty
Alli Beaver	Christ the King, Scottsville	Sydney Chamber	Jacob Lopez	Immaculate, Owensboro	Addison Grace Patton
Landon Block	Sean Wheeler	Benjamin Couch	Angel Martinez	Mollie Bratcher	Jude Pickerell
Christopher Burns	Lane Lunsford	Carsen Emmick	Gabrielle O’Nan	Muwa Lamartine	Alyssa Rhineburger
Lillian Coombs	Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson	Jason Freeman	Ryan Roberts	Christopher R. Dunn	Mikayla Waninger
Kristen Harris	Jackelyn Arroyo Patena	Benjamin Goldsberry	Zachary Rust	Macy Renee Foreman	Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
Jackson Howard	Alaina Barron	Drew Hagan	Morgan Smith	Mackenzie Gleason	Jacob Thomas Higdon
Ella Logsdon	Alton Berger	Mallory Hagan	Bermery Teririaki	Will Hume	Briana Gail Lawrence
Elizabeth Mayfield		Clara Hazelwood	Colton Thompson		
		Alexander Jones	Ana Claire Tichenor		

Continues on page 28

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

Graduates continued from page 27

McKenna Mason

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Charlie Gabbard
Kaylie Dant

St. Anthony, Utica

Julianna Gaynor

St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel

Turner Tucker
Kayleigh Huffins
Ashley Hinton
Beau Henning

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Jonathan Molina

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Alex Skaggs

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Ian Beasley
Matthew Henderson
Zachary Poat
Brayden Kloss

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Brayden Butler
Connor Drury
Wyatt McLeary

Delaney Morris

Ella Ramsey

Josie Redden

Connor Riddle

Olivia Tharp

Tori Thomasson

Hayden Thompson

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Merri Ellen Bratcher

Canon Clark

EmaLee Clark

Natalia Falcon

Landon Johnson

Will Johnston

Lilly Kane

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Josue Ajanel Calel

Eleasr Blanco

Dasani Carrillo

Yadhira Carrillo

Marcos Cirilo, Jr.

Neidy Pacheco

Jackson Paxtor

Karen Ramirez

Mario Rosas

Cesar Sanchez

Jack Sullivan

Daisy Valencia

Evelyn Vicente Paxtor

St. Jude, Clinton

Dallas Williford

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Catherine Gillim

Kathryn Riney

Graci Stephen

Logan Wood

Jacob Simon

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Luke Hendrick

Christopher Whitfill

Ava Henning

Kyleigh Greenwell

Emily Hinton

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Helen Haynes

Elizabeth Ernsperker

Mariann Mills

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Amie Darst

Gunner Higdon

Hailey Lampton

Bailey Tilford

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Samuel Pollard

Jack Morris

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Karlie Holman

Tommy Robertson

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Ellie Gentry

Audrey Hagan

Alexis Hamilton

Susan Pan Htoi

Clayton Payne

Ethan Payne

Christian Quick

Su Reh

RJ Turpin

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Tori Barton

Bailey Brown

Bradley Brown

Jack Camp

Ben Carr

Kayleigh Coleman

Lucia Flood

Emily Galloway

Drake Hansford

Wilson Hart

Brianna Laslie

Will Lewis

Sydney Mattingly

Lillian Perks

Logan Pile

Hadley Priest

Jessica Raymer

Kathryn Roberts

Braxton Taul

Amber Whitfill

Makayla Whitfill

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Ethan Bivens

Gavin Alexander

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Cendal Brown

Noah Carter

Nikolas Hodskins

Evan Hurm

Annie Iracane

Maya Montalvo

Romer Payne

Isabella Wardrip

Zeb Wells

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Owen Dawson

Ellie Gregory

Ayllie Hernandez

Matthew King

Charlee Matuszczak

Haily Mendoza

Isabel Perrault

Mariane Puertollano

Jillian Roach

Julissa Soto

Olivia Tharp

Erica Wurth

Sts. Joseph and Paul, Owensboro

Jaylan Boarman

Lauren Clark

Isabella Jarboe

Victor Neves

Olivia Riedell

KiAiden Sanchez-Smith

Sts. William and Lawrence, Daviess County

Bransen Berry

Seanna Haynes

Raylee Higdon

Aiden Howe

Gracie Meserve

Aliya Murphy

Kate Mills

Joe Varble



COURTESY OF DAVID KESSLER

Bishop Medley visits with the seniors at St. Mary High School in Paducah on April 30, 2025.



COURTESY OF DAVID KESSLER

Bishop Medley visits with the seniors at Trinity High School in Whitesville on April 24, 2025.

Senior conversations

BY WKC STAFF

Bishop William F. Medley visits with the seniors of the Diocese of Owensboro's three Catholic high schools each spring, to provide an opportunity for them to converse with him and ask any questions they may have. This year, the bishop visited Owensboro Catholic High School on March 24, Trinity High School in Whitesville on April 24, and St. Mary High School in Paducah on April 30. ■

‘A scout is reverent’ – Religious emblems presented at Mass



COURTESY OF SHERI BABBS

The 2025 recipients of the religious emblems at the Diocese of Owensboro’s Scouting Religious Emblems Mass on March 16 are seen at St. Anthony Parish in Utica/Browns Valley.

BY SHERI BABBS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Scouting religious awards for the Diocese of Owensboro were presented by Bishop William F. Medley on March 16, 2025, at the Scouting Religious Emblem Mass at St. Anthony Parish in Utica/Browns Valley. The religious emblems presented were earned by scouts through the National Catholic Committee on Scouting Religious Emblem Program. Scouting America Cub and Scouts have studied for months, researching their faith and performing works of service. The recipients for the Religious Emblems include:

Light of Christ: Riley Brumley P2007 and Paul Hardy P602

Parvuli Dei: James Hardy P602

Ad Alteri Dei: Troop 2007 (Proctored by Dcn. Jerry Stoverink) Javier Bautista, Dylan Molina, and Matthew Scarpino

Pope Pius XII: Troop 2007 (Proctored by Steve Shoulta) William Babbs, Andrew Byrne, Aiden Chino, Hunter Korte, Cooper Richison, Riley Richison, and Kobee Seay

In addition to earning their perspective religious emblems, five scouts from Troop 2007 earned the Pray the Rosary Patch from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, including William Babbs, Javier Bautista, Andrew Byrne, Dylan Molina, and Riley Richison. ■

Sheri Babbs serves as the chaplain for Troop 2007.

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Bernie & Lisa Dotsey, 40
Ed & Ellen Higdon, 55
James & Janet Hagan, 53
John & Mary Pickrell, 50
Joseph & Donna Roby, 53
Mike & Alice Hays, 52
Ray & Judy Taylor, 56

Christ the King, Madisonville

Andy & Diana Groves, 51
Ralph & Jeanne Hines, 59

Christ the King, Scottsville

Bill & Catherine Grapes, 56
Bill & Nancy Wooldridge, 60
Donald & Christine Eastman, 51

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Darrel & Darlene Cummings, 57
David & Kathy Butler, 53
Don & Joyce Hutchinson, 57
Ernesto & Daisy Posadas, 51
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Paul & Betty Logsdon, 54

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Ben & Kelsey Rhodes, 10
Colby & Michelle Grayson, 10
Danny & Rose Ann Payne, 59
Harry & Peggy Bellew, 60
Jeff & Margie Ebelhar, 51
Jeffrey & Jamie Durham, 10
Kevin & Kristin Dorth, 10
Logan & Monika Mills, 67
Michael & Rita Gerteisen, 40
Rich & Joyce Gruenewald, 40
Ron & Denise Payne, 54
Thomas & Janet Ebelhar, 53

St. Stephen, Cadiz
Henry & Chris Gusgeski, 50

St. Thomas More, Paducah
Andrew & Lucia Burkart, 5
Chad & Shannon Ponsler, 5
Frank & Carole Shields, 67
Jim & Amy Garrett, 40
Joseph & Diane Jordan, 52
Michael & Connie Perry, 53
Mike & Nicole Demeo, 10
Phillip & Cynthia Hornbeak, 54
Steve & Jean Berry, 50

St. William, Knottsville
David & Charlotte Payne, 55
Garry & Dian Johnson, 53
Gary & Debora Fulkerson, 54
Hubert & Joyce Hurm, 58
Jack & Mary Ann Haycraft, 64
Jackie & Dorothy Kirk, 60
Jason & Tamara Sue
Fulkerson, 25
Joseph & Dianne Harley, 53
Kevin & Stephanie Johnson, 10
Robert & Anna Turner, 74
Tony & Diana Elliott, 64
Walter & Mary Isbill, 66

St. William, Marion
Bill & Sherry Frazer, 59

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro
Larry Ray & Arlene Dunn, 58
Paul & Linda Mitchell, 53
Richard & Nancy O'Bryan, 52
Terry & Brenda Royal, 57

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville
Donald & Mary Ann Moore, 68
Edward & Susan Vaughn, 25
Jarod & Theresa Perry, 5
Michael & Mary Kay Green, 59
Miguel & Abigail Gutierrez, 40
Robert & Christine Stites, 52

Cheers for 40 years: Parishioners surprise Fr. Terry Devine

BY NEENA GAYNOR, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Sunday, April 28, the parishes of Immaculate Conception (Hawesville) and St. Columba (Lewisport) Parishes successfully surprised pastor Fr. Terry Devine with a heartfelt celebration for his 40th ordination anniversary (officially May 11). Friends, parishioners from various chapters of his ministry, and loved ones gathered for a delicious church potluck (with help from Bill and Dave's BBQ Pit - Tell City, Ind.) and the lively entertainment of Barry Lanham and his clogging group. It was a blessed occasion for a man who has given so much. ■



COURTESY OF NEENA GAYNOR

Fr. Terry Devine (far right) and Barry Lanham with the cloggers who performed at the April 28 surprise party for Fr. Devine's 40th ordination anniversary. Fr. Terry enjoyed clogging at Saint Meinrad while in the seminary and didn't miss a step on Sunday.

AAUW honors trailblazing Ursuline Sisters during Women's History Month

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

Representatives of the Owensboro branch of the American Association of University Women came to the Mount Saint Joseph Cemetery on March 26, 2025, to honor Ursuline Sisters who broke barriers for women in Daviess County. The AAUW celebrates Women's History Month in March every year by planting flags in cemeteries where known pioneering women are buried. Aside from the Mount cemetery, they also visit Elmwood, Adath Israel, Pleasant Point Baptist and Utica Baptist cemeteries, said Judy Adams, who coordinates the flag plantings.

The Ursuline Sisters who received flags included Mother Aloysius Willett, the first Ursuline superior in 1912; Sister Fran Wilhelm, who founded the

Centro Latino ministry; Sister Francesca Hazel, Sister Marita Greenwell, and Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, who led the Contemporary Woman Program at Brescia College/University for a combined 54 years; Sister Anne Louise Ramold, who made concern for the poor the hallmark of her 24 years leading the sociology program at Brescia College; Sister Joan Marie Lechner, the first resident president of Brescia College from 1960-74; Sister Carolyn Marie O'Harrow, who began the House of Prayer at Maple Mount in 1978; Sister Emma Cecilia Busam, who developed the archives for both the Sisters and the Diocese of Owensboro, and was a founding member of the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious; and Sister Dianna Ortiz, who gave voice to torture victims who the government wanted to silence. ■



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Sister Michele Morek smiles after locating the grave of Sister Joan Marie Lechner, the first resident president of Brescia College from 1960-74. Among her many ministries, Sister Michele served as a biology professor at Brescia for nearly 20 years.

Praying together for protection, healing at cathedral Taizé service

BY WKC STAFF

On April 8, the Diocese of Owensboro hosted its annual ecumenical Taizé prayer service for protection and healing of victims of sexual abuse, and for those who care about them.

The prayer service, hosted at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro and sponsored by the diocese's Office of Safe Environment, was presided over by Bishop William F. Medley. The service was open to the public.

Information about virtual support groups for victims/survivors of abuse can be accessed at owensborodiocese.org/support-group. Information about the Catholic Church's commitment to safeguarding the vulnerable can be accessed at owensborodiocese.org/safe. ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Blue candles in the shape of a cross are seen on the steps of the sanctuary as Bishop William F. Medley presides at the April 8 Taizé prayer service for protection and healing of victims of sexual abuse, hosted at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro

IN BRIEF

New Catholic high school to open in Bowling Green

Chesterton Academy of Bowling Green, a Catholic classical high school, will open in fall 2025 on the campus of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green. “St. Joseph School has a legacy of more than 100 years of Catholic education,” said parish council member Dr. Gary Houtchens, but added that the parish has not operated a high school for more than 50 years. As a solution to “the need and demand for a Catholic high school with all the economic growth in Bowling Green,” he said several surveys were done to gauge parental interest in opening a new school. As an education professor at Western Kentucky University, as well as being a parent of elementary students at St. Joseph School, Dr. Houtchens said he was invited to join the founding team. In researching options for a small, classical high school, the team came across the Chesterton Network of Schools, which is based in Minnesota and named after the early 20th-century Catholic thinker and writer G.K. Chesterton. “The big challenge was a location – for a while we were in limbo,” said Dr. Houtchens. Then St. Joseph Parish began its Renew campaign to restore the historic church and property, which includes building a new Administration and Youth Building. “It creates an ideal location and at least gives us a place to be established and an opportunity to discern” the high school’s permanent home. Dr. Houtchens said the team is grateful for the commitment of “both Fr. Ryan Harpole (pastor of St. Joseph) and Fr. Randy Howard (pastor of nearby Holy Spirit Parish) to be spiritual fathers for the school, especially since the Chesterton model calls for daily Mass.” He said they are also thankful for the partnership with Knights of Columbus Council #1315, which sponsored the project so it could join the Chesterton Network. They can be followed on Facebook by searching “Chesterton Academy of Bowling Green” and those who want to learn more can email chestertonbgky@gmail.com.

Sisters donate blankets to women in need

On March 18, an assortment of blankets made by Ursuline Sisters of Saint Joseph and their friends were donated to benefit Fresh Start for Women. The 15 fleece blankets were made in Maple Hall (also known as the gym/auditorium) the week before as a project for Catholic Sisters Week (March 8-14). Fresh Start for Women is located in Owensboro and offers transitional housing and life skills for up to 15 women who are working to overcome substance abuse and sometimes domestic violence. The women stay from six months to two to three years. Cindy Jean, Fresh Start’s executive director, said that each of the women will receive one of these blankets to keep..

Former Holy Name principal receives national education award

Dr. Daryl Hagan, the director of the Institute for the Transformation of Catholic Education at The Catholic University of America, has been named the recipient of the 2025 C. Albert Koob Merit Award, one of five President’s Awards conferred annually by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). Dr. Hagan served for 13 years as principal of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson in the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky. Prior to his role with CUA, Dr. Hagan also served as the superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Evansville, Ind., for 12 years. He is the author of the author of “Communion and Community: 46 Ways to Engage Catholic School Faculty and Staff During the School Year.” ■



COURTESY OF DR. GARY HOUTCHENS

The future Administration and Youth Building at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, currently under construction, is seen in this undated photo. The building will be the temporary home of Chesterton Academy of Bowling Green when it opens in August 2026.



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Cindy Jean, left, and Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU, gather 15 fleece blankets on March 18, 2025, that were made by Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and friends to benefit Fresh Start for Women in Owensboro.

Western Kentucky flood survivors need our help



COURTESY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
Floodwaters in Calhoun, Ky., are seen April 6, 2025.

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul stands ready to assist our western Kentucky neighbors as they rebuild their lives after the torrential rainstorms in April. A storm so rare, it was categorized as a once in a lifetime event, devastated western Kentucky families, their homes, businesses, and vehicles, all underwater. Thousands have been affected by the flood waters in western Kentucky. Many have lost everything and are in for a long recovery period.

Both the Ohio and the Green Rivers exceeded their banks, forcing evacuations of cities and some western Kentucky counties. While all of western Kentucky was affected, the hardest hit areas are in the counties where those rivers run next to cities/

towns, especially the smaller communities. It will take months if not longer to go through the process of rebuilding not just their homes but their lives.

Insurance adjusters are working long hours as well as roofers and general contractors – if a homeowner is lucky enough to get back into their home this early. Many are still stranded in limbo as they wait for the water to recede. Unfortunately, insurance rarely covers everything. Alleviating those worries are where St. Vincent de Paul can help. Donate now to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council's Flood Relief Campaign to help western Kentucky flood survivors rebuild their homes and families. Together we can make a difference!

Donate at svdpwk.org/donate - or mail your donation to: SVdP, P.O. Box 1203, Owensboro, KY 42302-1203. For questions or more information contact Richard Remp-Morris at (270) 315-5747. ■

Save the date!



QUILT BINGO

Sunday, September 14
1–4 p.m.

Mount Saint Joseph Maple Hall
(Gym) 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky.



Play bingo to win quilts!
Enjoy lunch and have fun!
\$25 per person

\$1 games – you can win small quilts.
\$2 games – you can win large quilts.
Bingo players must be 18 or older.
Seating is limited. Sign up online:
ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-bingo
or mail a check payable to Ursuline Sisters, Development Office, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount KY 42356

Don't forget your \$5 raffle tickets!

You could be our lucky \$10,000 winner!!
Or you could win \$5,000 • \$2,000
• Beautiful Handmade Quilt

Order tickets online:
ursulinesmsj.org/mountraffle
Drawing takes place Sept. 14 at 4 p.m.



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9998

For more information, contact Carol Braden-Clarke
270-229-2008
carol.braden-clark@maplemount.org

License 0250

Help support the Ursuline Sisters!

Was Mount Saint Joseph originally in Curdsville?

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

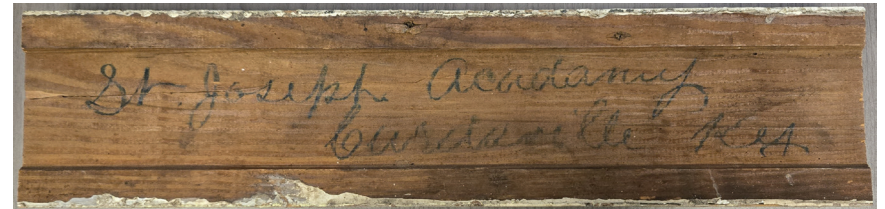
Things change. This is a sometimes confusing, sometimes frustrating fact about history. History books and artifacts can often contradict themselves or, wrongly, appear to be incorrect. This is often simply due to changed circumstances or a lack of context. That appears to be the case with this item from the archive at Mount Saint Joseph.

The discovery of this item is nothing short of unbelievable. Almost 10 years ago, the maintenance crew at Mount Saint Joseph was replacing some old wooden doors under St. Angela Hall. The doors were being replaced with large steel doors and the old door frames had to be removed. Upon removing the door frames, the crew notice some writing on a piece of wood inside the frame, "St. Joseph Academy Curdsville Ky." This was something they believed may need to be kept. So, they took it to Sr. Rita Scott. Sr. Rita made a notation on the back and took it to the archives.

Why does the board say Curdsville? The sisters did teach at a school in Curdsville. So, that may be the first place your mind goes. However, that school was St. Elizabeth, not St. Joseph. The answer is that Mount Saint Joseph, at one time, was located in the Curdsville district. We are so used to the Mount being in Saint Joseph, Kentucky, that we may forget that prior to the construction of Mount Saint Joseph or perhaps even the St. Joseph School that predated and was replaced by the Mount, the area was not referred to as St. Joseph. A review of

the 1876 Leo McDonough and Co. atlas shows that, at the time, the Curdsville border went all the way to the border of McLean County. This is also confirmed in the 1880 census. So, for a period the Mount was indeed considered in Curdsville. Only later was it in St. Joseph or Maple Mount, Kentucky. By 1905, the Cram's atlas has St. Joseph featured on the map.

So, what is the board? Well, there are a few things that it could be. One of the simplest answers could be that the door frame was labeled by the construction workers. However, St. Angela was completed in 1914, almost 10 years after the Cram's atlas confirms St. Joseph as a separate area. Another possibility is that the board is a sign for the academy. It may have been on the school or on the road leading to the school. The board could have then been reused in the doorframe to avoid waste. Regardless, it does remind us names and places can be tricky things when it comes to history. A good example of this is that the Mount wasn't always in the Diocese of



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

A board found in the doorframe of St. Angela Hall. It displays the words, "St. Joseph Academy Curdsville Ky."



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

The laundry under St. Angela Hall, picture dated 1914-1926. The piece of wood was likely from the doorframe of this room.

Owensboro, for much of its life it was in the Diocese of Louisville. It did not change location, the location itself did. With history, almost nothing can change, and yet, everything somehow does. ■

Edward Wilson is the director of the Diocese of Owensboro's Archives and the Archives of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Comments and questions may be sent to edward.wilson@pastoral.org.

MAY 2025 BULLETIN BOARD

Mass and confession times in the Diocese of Owensboro

Did you know you can view Mass times on the diocese's website? Visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/find-a-parish/> for a list of parishes, Mass times and more. As confession times are subject to change, visitors are encouraged to contact the parishes directly for their most up-to-date confession schedule.

Brescia concert May 1

Brescia University in Owensboro will hold its spring concert on May 1, 7 p.m., at Taylor Lecture Hall on Brescia's campus. The concert is free and open to the public. Any questions can be directed to brett.ballard@brescia.edu

May and September retreats for healing after abortion

If you are suffering from grief or trauma from an abortion, come experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat during this Jubilee Year of Hope! There will be two Catholic retreats offered during May and September 2025, sponsored by Rachel's Vineyard of Bowling Green. Our weekend retreats will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of Entrustment of our Children to Jesus. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. For more information or registration contact us on our confidential hotline (270-474-4707) or email (retreats@hopeafterabortionky.com). The cost is \$200 for meals, private room, and all retreat materials. If you have a financial burden, assistance is available – no one is ever turned away due to financial need! More information is available on our website: HopeAfterAbortionKY.com
For a complete listing of retreat dates and locations contact 1-877-HOPE-4-ME or visit the Rachel's Vineyard website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Nominate the 2024-2025 Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year

The Catholic Schools Office and the Principals and Administrators of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (PACCESS) are again asking for nominations for Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the

Year. The winner will be announced at the 2025 Celebration of Catholic Schools event. Anyone, with the exception of an immediate family member, may nominate an educator for the award. All information concerning nominees will be kept confidential, including the name of the person submitting the nomination. The educator must currently be employed in the Diocese of Owensboro and must have taught for a minimum of five years in the diocesan schools. The outstanding Catholic School Educator must be a role model as an outstanding human being; have a major influence in the lives of students; show concern with the faith development as well as the physical, mental and emotional development of students; and encourage students to improve their abilities and talents. The deadline for nominations is July 1, 2025. A committee will serve as judges. For the nomination form, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/educator-award/>.

Edictal Summons request from Diocese of Austin Texas

The following individual, Jason Roelle Wagner, or anyone knowing his whereabouts is hereby requested to contact the Ecclesiastical Tribunal of the Diocese of Austin so that he may be notified of an important matter regarding his status, rights and obligations in the Catholic Church. The Tribunal may be contacted at (512) 949-2478 or tribunal@austindiocese.org.

Proximo Travel seeking priest chaplains

Dear priests of the Diocese of Owensboro: My name is Dcn. Joseph Bland and I am the clergy trip organizer for Proximo Travel. Proximo Travel is a Catholic tour company seeking priests as chaplains on our pilgrimages. As a fellow clergyman, I can state from my own personal experience on the numerous pilgrimages I've traveled on over the last 15 years that Proximo Travel has been exceptional to work with and has an A+ with the BBB. As a deacon since 2012 at the Church of Annunciation of Shelbyville, Ky., I have represented over a dozen dioceses signing up priests as chaplains. Over the years I have signed up over 30 priests from the Archdiocese of Louisville that have been chaplains on our pilgrimages. Proximo provides exceptional tours to Italy, Holy Land, Ireland, Scotland, Greece, Spain, France and many other locales throughout Europe and Mexico. Itineraries and dates of travel are

of your choosing. Proximo Travel customizes tours to your specifications. All registrations, transportation, hotels, tour guides, and meals (except lunch), and tips are handled by Proximo. We invite you to look at our website, www.proximotravel.com. You may contact me at (502) 829-9969 or josephbland@proximotravel.com, or call the main office at (855) 842-8001. We have organized hundreds of pilgrimages over the past 25 years and will be happy to provide references. God bless you in your ministry.

Visit the Ursuline Sisters' Rosary Walk and Shrine Walk

Since the day it was blessed and dedicated in 2006, the Rosary Walk on the grounds of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph has offered people a chance to express their spirituality among the beauty and splendor of the "holy ground" at Maple Mount (8001 Cummings Road, 12 miles west of Owensboro, Ky., on Hwy. 56). It is located on the front of the grounds (northwest corner) and includes the Christ the King statue. Visitors can use their cell phones to reach this webpage and listen to an audiotape of the rosary (recorded by Sister Elaine Burke, OSU) to accompany their walk: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/rosary-shrine-walk/> Or visitors can stroll to see the inspiring shrines on the grounds of the Motherhouse. They can visit this webpage to find a list of the shrines and to hear a recording about them (recorded by Sister Nancy Murphy, OSU): <https://ursulinesmsj.org/shrine-meditation-walk/> People can also listen to these recordings on their computers. No appointment is necessary to see the Rosary Walk or the shrines. There are new sidewalks on the west side of campus available for anyone to use.

Need a meeting space? Maple Hall is available at Mount Saint Joseph

Need a meeting space for up to 200 people? Maple Hall (formerly known as Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium/Gym) is available for rent. It is located on the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph campus, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky., 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56, across from the park. Maple Hall is an open space with a kitchen equipped for catering. It's perfect for hosting receptions, parties, reunions, etc. There are two rental options -- a partial rental for up to four hours

Continues on page 39

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bulletin Board continued from page 38

MAY 2025 BULLETIN BOARD

(\$100) and a full rental which allows use for a full day (\$200). The use of 6-foot tables and chairs is included in the rental fee (user is responsible for setup, or this can be done for you for an additional fee). To reserve Maple Hall, contact the Mount Saint Joseph Finance Office by email: ap@maplemount.org or call the switchboard at 270-229-4103 and ask to speak to the Finance Office. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. You can find out more on this webpage: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/renting-maple-hall/>

How to Stay in Touch with the Ursuline Sisters

There are several ways you can stay in touch with the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.) The Sisters have a website: ursulinesmsj.org. They publish a magazine three times a year. To sign up to receive "Ursulines Alive," visit the website and click Contact Us and send a message. You can ask to receive our Quilt Club, raffle, and annual appeal letters. If you would like to get our monthly Pilgrimage emails, visit our website and click Subscribe. You can sign up in the

same place to receive prayer requests and the New Mount (Academy alumnae news). Every day there is a new Facebook post, so be sure to like the Ursuline Sisters (facebook.com/ursulinesmsj). The Sisters also post occasionally on X ([ursulinesmsj](https://twitter.com/ursulinesmsj)), Instagram ([ursulinesistersofmsj](https://instagram.com/ursulinesistersofmsj)) and YouTube ([UrsulineSistersMSJ](https://youtube.com/UrsulineSistersMSJ)). You can reach them by phone at 270-229-4103, email info.ms@maplemount.org, or send postal mail to 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356. The Sisters look forward to hearing from you!

Support groups for victims/survivors of clergy abuse

The Diocese of Owensboro would like to share some support group opportunities made available through the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. These groups are open to all victims/survivors in the United States. Learn more at <https://owensborodiocese.org/support-group/> and <https://owensborodiocese.org/safe/>. You are also invited to visit <https://www.awakecommunity.org/>, a community of abuse survivors, concerned Catholics, and allies responding to the wounds of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church.

From Brescia to the Heart of Italy

with Fr. Larry Hostetter

September 19-30, 2025

Rome + Vatican City + Assisi
Gubbio + Desenzano + Brescia

For more
information

go to:

bit.ly/BresciaToItaly2025



Faith in Travel
Pilgrimages



We still have Quilt Club tickets!

It's not too late to get your Quilt of the Month Club ticket! **If you enter by June 5**, you will have 10 chances to win a beautiful handmade quilt. Drawings occur on the first Friday of each month. Only 2,500 tickets (\$25 each) will be sold.

Contact Carol Braden-Clarke:

270-229-2009

carol.braden-clark@maplemount.org

Order online: ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-club



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph
8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356

License No. 0290

Tribunal Explains

The myth: A declaration of invalidity (annulment) is expensive, and the more you pay, the quicker your case will be processed and the better your chances are of getting an affirmative decision.

The truth: There is no fee for a case to be examined in the Diocese of Owensboro; therefore, money has no effect on how quickly a case is processed or whether or not it is granted. While supporting the permanence of marriage, the Church bears in mind the needs of divorced individuals. The Diocesan Tribunal is designed to help individuals in the healing process by seeking clarification with regard to their marriage. Further information will be published monthly. If you have questions, please contact the Tribunal at (270) 683-1545 or tribunal@pastoral.org.

2025 DIOCESAN PARISH PICNICS SCHEDULE

Editor's note: Parish picnics and cooking teams are a longstanding tradition in the parishes of the Diocese of Owensboro. Parishioners and non-parishioners alike gather to celebrate with food, games and community during the warmest months of the year. All questions about the individual picnics should be directed to the parishes at the numbers provided with each listing.

- May 17**
Carmel Home, Owensboro
Street address: 2501 Old Hartford Rd., Owensboro
Serving 11 a.m.
Contact: (270) 683-0227
- May 25**
St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Street address: 10534 Main Cross St., Whitesville
Serving 11 a.m.
Contact: Parish office (270) 233-4196
- June 7**
Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
Street address: 4754 Smallhouse Rd., Bowling Green
Serving 5:30 p.m. until dark
Contact: (270) 842-7777
- June 7**
Precious Blood, Owensboro
Street address: 3306 Fenmore St., Owensboro
Drive-thru only; serving 3 p.m.
Contact: Parish office (270) 684-6888
- June 7**
St. Joseph, Leitchfield
Street address: 204 North Main St., Leitchfield
Serving 11 a.m.
Contact: (270) 259-3028
- June 14**
St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady
Street address: 4711 S. Hwy 105, Hardinsburg
Serving 4-7 p.m.
Contact: Shane Beavin (270) 617-3149
- June 14**
St. Pius X, Owensboro
Street address: 3418 Hwy 144, Owensboro
Drive-thru only; serving 3:30 p.m.
Contact: (270) 684-4745
- June 21**
Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
Street address: 4029 Frederica St., Owensboro
Drive-thru only; serving at 3 p.m.
Contact: Phil Haire (270) 314-6616
- June 21**
Tri-Parish Community of St. Anthony, St. Augustine & St. Benedict, Grayson County
Street address: 1256 St. Anthony Rd., Clarkson
Serving 3-7 p.m.
Contact: (270) 312-1949
- June 28**
St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
Street address: 7232 State Route 56, Owensboro
Drive-thru only; serving 4 p.m.
Contact: Anne Jones (618) 731-8321 or parish office (270) 771-4436
- June 28**
St. Peter Parish & Knights of Columbus Waverly
Street address: 201 E. Market St., Waverly
Mass: 4 p.m.
Serving 5 p.m.
Contact: (270) 389-4224
- June 28**
St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel
Street address: 1654 S. Hwy 79, Hardinsburg
Serving 4-7 p.m.
Contact: Parish office (270) 2572132
- July 5**
St. Denis, Fancy Farm
Street address: 2758 Hwy 1748 West, Fancy Farm
Serving lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Serving supper: 5-7 p.m.
Contact: Susan Hayden (270) 642-2491
- July 12**
St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
Street address: 11028 St. Joseph Ln., Owensboro
Drive-thru only; serving 4 p.m.
Contact: Parish office (270) 229-4164 or st.alphonsus@att.net
- July 19**
St. Charles, Bardwell
Street address: 6922 State Route 408, Bardwell
Serving lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Serving supper: 4:30-7 p.m.
Contact: Susan Hayden (270) 642-2491
- July 19**
St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
Street address: 81 Church St., Stanley
Serving 4 p.m.
Contact: (270) 231-6939
- July 26**
St. Paul, Grayson County
Street address: 1821 St. Paul Rd., Leitchfield
Serving 3 p.m.
Contact: Parish office (270) 242-7436
- Aug. 2**
St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Street address: 20 State Route 339 North, Fancy Farm
Serving 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Contact: Andy Hayden (270) 705-4312
- Aug. 5**
St. Martin, Rome
Street address: 5856 State Route 81, Owensboro
Drive-thru only; serving 4 p.m.
Contact: (270) 685-0339
- Aug. 16**
St. Ann, Morganfield
Street address: 304 South Church St., Morganfield
Serving 5-9 p.m.
Contact: (270) 389-2287
- Sept. 6**
Christ the King, Scottsville
Street address: 298 Bluegrass Dr., Scottsville
Serving 3-7 p.m.
Contact: Valerie Vargo (270) 943-7892
- Sept. 6**
St. Agnes Parish & Knights of Columbus, Uniontown
Street address: 504 Mulberry St., Uniontown
Serving 5 p.m.
Contact: Steven Gough (270) 952-3071 or Travis Hancock (270) 952-2500
- Sept. 6**
St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Street address: 6705 Old Hwy 45 South, Paducah
Serving: 8 a.m. (meat stand); 12 noon-5:30 p.m. (dinner)
Contact: Parish office (270) 554-3810
- Sept. 13**
St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
Street address: 394 N Hwy 259, Hardinsburg
Serving 4-7 p.m.
Contact: (270) 756-2356
- Sept. 20**
Christ the King, Madisonville
Street address: 1500 Kingsway Dr., Madisonville
Serving 4-8 p.m.
Contact: Lesley Mills (270) 821-8271
- Sept. 20**
St. Elizabeth, Clarkson
Street address: 306 Clifty Ave., Clarkson
Serving 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Contact: (270) 242-4414
- Sept. 21**
Mary Carrico Catholic School, Knottsville
Street address: 6119 St. Lawrence Rd., Philpot
Serving 11 a.m.
Contact: Joe Schepers (270) 929-5522
- Sept. 27**
Immaculate, Owensboro
Street address: 2516 Christie Pl., Owensboro
Pick-up only; serving 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Contact: John Jones (270) 316-2214
- Sept. 28**
St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Street address: 10534 Main Cross St., Whitesville
Serving 11 a.m.
Contact: Parish office (270) 233-4196

‘More than a music director’ *Bogdan remembered as church musician advocate, mentor, pioneer*

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Mike Bogdan was helping part-time at St. Stephen Cathedral when incoming cathedral music director, James Wells, joined the staff almost 10 years ago.

“Every day I was dialing his extension,” said Wells, who was guided in his new role by Bogdan, the Diocese of Owensboro’s director of music at the time.

Over the years, the two became friends as Wells attended liturgical music conferences with Bogdan and often played at diocesan liturgies.

Wells said Bogdan was “always so good” at trying things “outside the box” when it came to sacred music, “but remaining within the boundaries the Church gave us. It was really inspiring, and I learned a lot with that.”

Bogdan passed away from prostate cancer on April 14, 2025, which happened to be Monday of Holy Week. He worked as a lay minister for the Catholic Church for 46 years, with 33 of those years working at the diocesan level. He retired as diocesan music director in 2024.

Wells said Bogdan worked to tie “local traditions” in parishes’ “local identity” when helping parish music ministers: “He visited many parishes on Sundays and weekends; he knew so much about each individual parish.”

“His was a big loss, a big legacy – he was a big mentor of mine,” said Wells.

Brett Ballard, the assistant professor of music at

Brescia University in Owensboro, shared that he worked with Bogdan as the main percussionist for diocesan liturgies over the past 20+ years.

“He gave me many opportunities to create my own parts, use instruments as I saw fit, and play parts as needed,” said Ballard. “He also gave me several opportunities to use my original compositions as part of various liturgies. Mike was a great composer, and I valued the input he gave me when I showed him something I was working on.”

Lacy Riddle started working with Bogdan in music ministry when she started college.

“He always showed such confidence in his musicians and encouraged us to use our creativeness,” said Riddle, who today serves as the music director for St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm. “He had a beautiful servant heart and truly cared for those he encountered.”

Riddle said she and Bogdan became prayer partners when he received his cancer diagnosis, and she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

“He sent me the most beautiful bouquet of lilies and the sweetest note with his promise for prayers and an ear to listen,” she said. “We texted back and forth over the last year, and he was such a beacon of hope throughout his own cancer journey knowing in the end that treatments were no longer working.”

Riddle always looked up to Bogdan: “I know that he was welcomed into the gates of heaven with ‘well



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Mike Bogdan is seen conducting during the May 22, 2021 Mass of Ordination for Fr. Corey Bruns at St. Stephen Cathedral. The late diocesan director of music died on April 14, 2025, Monday of Holy Week.

done my good and faithful servant.”

Heather Greene, the diocese’s current music director, said it is hard to put into words the impact her predecessor made.

“He was more than just a music director – he was a blessing to our Church community and to the countless musicians whose lives he touched,” said Greene. “Mike set the bar for high standards in liturgical music, always offering his meticulous care in selecting music that honored the dignity of the liturgy, whether it was for a simple weekday Mass or a grand diocesan celebration like the Chrism Mass.”

Greene said Bogdan was a “tireless” advocate for church musicians, “fighting for fair wages, benefits, and recognition for those who dedicate their gifts to

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the Catholic Church's worship" as well as raising up local musicians through education opportunities and encouragement.

"His deep knowledge and thoughtful approach made him an invaluable resource for music directors across the diocese, and his clever, dry wit always managed to bring a smile, even in the busiest or most stressful of times," she said.

Greene said Bogdan leaves behind a lasting mark on the diocese "and in the hearts of all who had the good fortune to know him," she said. "May he rest in the peace of Christ, whose beauty he so faithfully reflected through music." ■

'Everything we do is true' – Mike Bogdan's liturgy-infused life an example of how to die well

BY MARTHA HAGAN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

A former teacher once said: "We must become fully permeated with Liturgy in the very depths of our beings." No one I know has better exemplified this permeation with Liturgy than Mike Bogdan. Mike brought with him scholarly insight, pastoral sensitivity, a wicked sense of humor, and sheer joy for the liturgy. Mike truly loved the liturgy. He was permeated with its history, its ritual diversity, its theology, its texts and its spirit.

Because he was permeated with Liturgy, Mike had been rehearsing for the moment of his death since the day of his baptism into Christ's Paschal Mystery many years ago. St. Paul tells us: "We have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection."

This Paschal pattern of life, the living out of our plunge into the dying and rising of Christ becomes the daily rhythm of life that Mike knew very well. And because of this, Mike also knew that his death was not the end but a stage in the journey of his life.

Mike taught me so much about how to die well. He lived his life simply with very little attachment to earthly goods. The ultimate letting go of those things was not difficult for him. When an experimental drug actually helped to prolong his life by a bit, Mike used that time to go on what he called his "goodbye tour" to reminisce with old friends and bid them farewell. His family and friends were his true treasures.

Mike loved life and he was so grateful to live beyond the time the doctors predicted. He was so pleased that he had to go back and edit his own obituary to add a year to his age. But he also had a certain sense of excitement at the prospect of going on to what is next. To be permeated with Liturgy as Mike was, is also to be filled with a Eucharistic vision, a vision of heaven where the Good Shepherd prepares the banquet table and the cups of wine are overflowing and abundant, a banquet, a feast "where the Lord God will wipe away every tear," that feast that we foretaste at every celebration of the Eucharist and which Mike now enjoys at the banquet table in heaven. Mike was looking forward to that.

Through Mike's love for and understanding of the Liturgy and through the way that he approached his own death, he has reminded me of the importance of learning the pattern of the paschal



COMMUNICATIONS FILE PHOTO

Mike Bogdan (bottom right corner) is seen laughing with Bishop William F. Medley and other diocesan co-workers at a Catholic Pastoral Center Staff Day Oct. 31, 2011, at Gasper River Camp in Bowling Green.

mystery that we celebrate in the Eucharist. It is a pattern of surrendering our lives to God so that our death is just one more exercise of a pattern learned in life and practiced over and over again – the pattern of dying and rising. Mike enjoyed studying and speaking about the scholarly aspects of Liturgy.

But, he also had a deep understanding that all this stuff we do is also true. ■

Martha Hagan is the vice-chancellor and administrative assistant to the Office of the Bishop. Previously, she served as the director of worship for the diocese and worked with Mike Bogdan in his role as director of music.

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Como he compartido antes, cuando visito los salones de clase de nuestras escuelas o con cualquier grupo de niños y adolescentes, una de mis prácticas favoritas es invitarlos a que me hagan preguntas. Después de tantos años como obispo, las mismas preguntas se convierten en las preguntas más frecuentes.

Casi sin excepción, una de las primeras tres o cuatro preguntas es: “¿Quién es tu santo favorito?” Bueno, eso es fácil porque me da la oportunidad de hablar sobre las vidas de los santos, alentar la devoción a los santos y compartir historias de santos de los que tal vez no hayan oído hablar.

Mi respuesta inmediata, sin embargo, es señalar que la santa favorita de todo católico debería ser María, la Madre de Dios. María es la primera entre los santos, es más, “Reina de los Patriarcas, Apóstoles, Mártires, Confesores y todos los Santos”.

En nuestra tradición, el mes de mayo se observa como un mes de especial devoción a María. Cuando era pequeño, disfrutaba de las devociones de mayo a María, en parte, quizás porque cantábamos himnos familiares a María que estaban en inglés. Por supuesto, hubo clásicos latinos como el Ave María y el Salve Regina, pero también himnos memorables como “O Mary We Crown Thee with Blossoms



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
En esta foto de marzo de 2025, afuera de la Basílica de la Santa Casa en Loreto, Italia, se ven puertas que representan a un ángel que lleva la Santa Casa de Loreto, que se cree que fue el hogar de la infancia de la Santísima Madre. Las conocidas Letanías de Loreto, también llamadas Letanías de la Santísima Virgen María, toman su nombre de esta devoción y de esta basílica.

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY MAYO DE 2025	
1 de mayo	9 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Católica de Owensboro Campus K-3
3 de mayo	4 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Esteban, Cádiz
4 de mayo	10:30 a.m. Confirmación – Capilla del Rosario, Paducah
	5:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Pedro de Alcántara, Stanley
5 de mayo	6 p.m. Cena de agradecimiento para líderes catequéticos y ministros juveniles parroquiales – Centro Católico McRaith
6 de mayo	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa María Magdalena, Sorgho
7 de mayo	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro
9 de mayo	7 p.m. Graduación de OCHS – Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Sportscenter]
10 de mayo	10 a.m. Graduación de la Universidad de Brescia – Centro Riverpark, Owensboro
12 de mayo	5:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam

14 de mayo	8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – Centro Católico McRaith
	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Cristo Rey, Madisonville
17 de mayo	7 p.m. Graduación de la Escuela Preparatoria Santa María – Paducah
18 de mayo	11 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San León, Murray
	4 p.m. Misa y cena de Hechos 2, 42 – Centro de Convenciones Bruce, Hopkinsville
19 de mayo	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith
	1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith
20-21 de mayo	Reunión de la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky y Reunión de los Obispos de la Provincia – Louisville
28 de mayo	10 a.m. Reunión del personal diocesano – Centro Católico McRaith
	5:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo, Hopkinsville.
31 de mayo	10 a.m. Ordenación al Sacerdocio del Diác. Conrad Jaconette – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro

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Today,” y “Sing of Mary, Pure and Holy”. Estos cantos a menudo acompañaban una procesión para coronar una estatua de la Santísima Virgen.

Las Letanías de la Santísima Virgen María, también conocidas como las Letanías de Loreto, fueron compuestas en la Edad Media y ahora ocupan un lugar de honor en la vida de la Iglesia. Aparte del rosario, es quizás la oración mariana más conocida.

Durante el mes de mayo animo a las personas y a las familias a redescubrir el rezo del rosario. Presento aquí las Letanías de la Santísima Virgen María con muchos de los títulos e invocaciones que nos presentan los exaltados privilegios de María. Cualquiera de estas invocaciones podría servirnos para una meditación sobre la Madre de Dios y Madre nuestra.

Señor, ten piedad.

Cristo ten piedad.

Señor, ten piedad.

Cristo, óyenos.

Cristo, escúchanos.

**Dios, Padre celestial,
ten piedad de nosotros.**

**Dios, Hijo, Redentor del mundo, Dios,
Espíritu Santo,**

Santísima Trinidad, un solo Dios,

Santa María,

ruega por nosotros.

Santa Madre de Dios,

**Santa Virgen de las Vírgenes, Madre de
Cristo, Madre de la Iglesia, Madre de la
misericordia, Madre de la divina gracia,
Madre de la esperanza, Madre purísima,
Madre castísima, Madre siempre virgen,
Madre inmaculada, Madre amable, Madre
admirable, Madre del buen consejo,
Madre del Creador,**

**Madre del Salvador, Virgen prudentísima,
Virgen digna de veneración, Virgen digna
de alabanza, Virgen poderosa, Virgen
clemente, Virgen fiel, Espejo de justicia,
Trono de la sabiduría, Causa de nuestra
alegría, Vaso espiritual, Vaso digno de
honor, Vaso de insigne devoción, Rosa
mística, Torre de David, Torre de marfil,
Casa de oro, Arca de la Alianza, Puerta
del cielo, Estrella de la mañana, Salud de
los enfermos, Refugio de los pecadores,**

**Consuelo de los migrantes, Consoladora
de los afligidos, Auxilio de los cristianos,
Reina de los Ángeles, Reina de los
Patriarcas, Reina de los Profetas, Reina
de los Apóstoles, Reina de los Mártires,
Reina de los Confesores, Reina de las
Vírgenes, Reina de todos los Santos,
Reina concebida sin pecado original, Reina
asunta a los Cielos, Reina del Santísimo
Rosario, Reina de la familia, Reina de la
paz.**

**Cordero de Dios, que quitas el pecado del
mundo, perdónanos, Señor.**

**Cordero de Dios, que quitas el pecado del
mundo, escúchanos, Señor.**

**Cordero de Dios, que quitas el pecado del
mundo, ten misericordia de nosotros.**

**Ruega por nosotros, Santa Madre de Dios,
Para que seamos dignos de las promesas
de Cristo.**

Oremos.

**Te rogamos nos concedas, Señor Dios
nuestro, gozar de continua salud de alma
y cuerpo, y por la gloriosa intercesión
de la bienaventurada siempre Virgen
María, vernos libres de las tristezas de la
vida presente y disfrutar de las alegrías
eternas.**

Por Cristo nuestro Señor.

Amén.

Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

Para denunciar una sospecha de abuso, llame a la Línea Directa de Protección Infantil de Kentucky: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331 (llamada gratuita) o comuníquese con su Fiscal Local del Commonwealth.

Para reportar abuso, actual o pasado, a la diócesis por parte de cualquier persona que actúe en nombre de la Iglesia, llame a Scott Ingram, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (inglés) al 270-852-8380, o Miguel Quintanilla, Coordinadoras de Asistencia Pastoral (español) al 270-880-8360. También puede visitar la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro (owensborodiocese.org/safe) para obtener más información. Para hacer un informe de abuso sexual de un menor de edad o conducta inapropiada relacionada por parte de algún obispo, visite <https://reportbishopabuse.org/es>.



El Obispo Medley recuerda al Papa Francisco

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Durante la Misa por la intención del alma del Papa Francisco del 25 de abril en la Catedral de San Esteban, el Obispo William F. Medley reflexionó sobre lo sucedido hace 12 años.

“Mientras se desarrollaba el cónclave, el mundo esperaba humo blanco”, dijo el Obispo Medley, quien presidió la Misa de las 12:05 p.m. de la catedral ese viernes.

Gracias a los medios digitales y redes sociales, “nos dimos cuenta instantáneamente de que se había elegido un nuevo Papa”, dijo el obispo, detallando cómo el personal del centro pastoral de la diócesis se apresuró a bajar al sótano para ver los acontecimientos del Vaticano en una pantalla grande.

El Cardenal Jorge Mario Bergoglio de Argentina fue el primer papa latinoamericano elegido en la historia de la Iglesia católica.

El Obispo Medley recordó haber visto al nuevo Papa salir al balcón central de la Basílica de San Pedro el 13 de marzo de 2013, e hizo algo antes de ofrecer la bendición tradicional.

“Francisco inclinó la cabeza y pidió a Roma y al mundo que oraran por él”, dijo el Obispo Medley.

El Obispo Medley dijo que el difunto pontífice “se convirtió en un defensor incansable, enfrentándose al mundo de la riqueza y el poder”.

En una entrevista con El Católico de Kentucky Occidental, el Obispo Medley dijo que el nombre del Papa había sido elegido en honor a San Francisco de Asís, quien cuidaba de los pobres.

“Francisco reveló (mucho) sobre su papado e identidad” al elegir ese nombre, dijo el Obispo Medley, especialmente en su compasión por “los pobres, particularmente con un enfoque en los inmigrantes y refugiados”.

El 28 de abril, la Oficina de Prensa de la Santa Sede anunció que el cónclave para



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE L' OSSERVATORE ROMANO
El Obispo Medley estrecha la mano del Papa Francisco en una reunión en la mañana del 4 de diciembre de 2019 durante la visita ad limina del obispo al Vaticano.

elegir al 267º Papa comenzará el 7 de mayo. Mientras la Iglesia se acerca a la elección del sucesor de San Pedro, el Obispo Medley dijo que “la historia de la Iglesia muestra a menudo cómo el Espíritu Santo nos ha dado el Papa que necesitamos”.■

Descansa en paz “Mike”

POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL
GUTIÉRREZ

Mike (Miguel) Bogdan, seguramente algunos de ustedes a través de los años lo conocieron o muchos lo vieron en Misas Crismales dirigiendo el coro y demás. Mike fue el director de la oficina diocesana de música para la diócesis por bastantes años. Recientemente, Mike partió a la casa del padre después de su batalla con el cáncer. Era importante poner algo aquí en esta sección de español del periódico, porque Mike era distinto. Fue un líder con corazón

y apertura hacia los hispanos. Siempre preguntaba y buscaba maneras de cómo poder incluir a más cantores y músicos hispanos/latinos para variados eventos diocesanos. No hablaba el español, pero por lo que no hablaba; en él se redoblaba su humildad, generosidad y sentido de inclusión. Tenía un sentido de Iglesia con visión donde la diversidad, las culturas, y distintas lenguas eran esenciales y enriquecían el canto. Muchas gracias, Mike por tu entrega y todos tus años de servicio a la Iglesia. Ahora descansas con música celestial en compañía de Santa Cecilia, patrona de músicos y de todos los demás santos y coros angélicos. - *Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez*



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Mike (Miguel) Bogdan lidera la música durante la misa de ordenación para el Padre Corey Bruns, 22 de mayo de 2021.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

El Padre Corey Bruns, vicario parroquial de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green, hace una genuflexión durante la Adoración Eucarística, celebrada como parte de la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional que pasaba por el oeste de Kentucky el 3 de julio de 2024. El P. Bruns asumirá el cargo de director de vocaciones de la Diócesis de Owensboro el 10 de junio de 2025.

‘Con alegría y valentía’: el P. Corey Bruns servirá como director de vocaciones

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El Padre Corey Bruns, actualmente vicario parroquial de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green, asumirá el cargo de director de vocaciones de la Diócesis de Owensboro el 10 de junio de 2025.

Sigue los pasos del director de vocaciones saliente, el P. Daniel Dillard, quien se convertirá en el párroco de la Parroquia San Martín en Rome, Kentucky.

El P. Bruns afirmó que una gran influencia en el fomento de las vocaciones es la conexión “personal”,

es decir, “ver a un sacerdote en un momento que les toca el corazón”.

Al abrazar su vocación, ha buscado demostrar que el sacerdocio y la vida religiosa son “una vida que vale la pena vivir, una vida que vale la pena elegir”.

“Estoy tratando de reforzar la idea de que amar significa entregarnos a nosotros mismos” en cualquier vocación a la que estemos llamados, dijo, “y ser capaces de hacerlo con alegría y valentía”. ■

El Vía Crucis recuerda la Pasión de Jesús el Viernes Santo

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El Viernes Santo, 18 de abril, varias comunidades hispanas/latinas de la diócesis representaron la Pasión y muerte de Jesús en una tradición especial llamada el Vía Crucis. Los feligreses se reunieron para recrear la experiencia del Viernes Santo, que incluyó caminatas, oraciones y cantos. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. COREY BRUNS

Los fieles, en un espíritu de oración, representando a Jesús y a los soldados romanos, recrean el Vía Crucis en las calles afuera de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green el Viernes Santo, 18 de abril de 2025.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE ABRAHAM BROWN
Los feligreses se turnan para llevar una cruz durante la procesión del Vía Crucis del Santo Nombre de Jesús en el Viernes Santo, 18 de abril de 2025.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE ABRAHAM BROWN
Los fieles de la Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson participan en un Vía Crucis a pie por la calle el Viernes Santo, 18 de abril de 2025.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ
Los fieles de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro representan el Vía Crucis en las calles del centro de Owensboro el Viernes Santo, 18 de abril de 2025.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. COREY BRUNS
Los fieles, en un espíritu de oración, representando a Nuestra Señora y Santa María Magdalena, recrean el Vía Crucis en las calles afuera de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green el Viernes Santo, 18 de abril de 2025.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ
Los feligreses que realizaron el Vía Crucis de este año en la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro sonríen para una foto grupal el Viernes Santo, 18 de abril de 2025.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament is seen during the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Bowling Green on July 3, 2024.

Study: Personal encouragement, Eucharistic adoration key to 2025 priestly vocations

WASHINGTON (OSV News) – Personal encouragement to consider priesthood, along with regular Eucharistic adoration, continue to be key factors for young men seeking to become priests, according to a new report. "Encourage a young man to consider the priesthood or to attend Eucharistic adoration; he could be your future pastor," said Bishop Earl Boyea of Lansing, Michigan. The bishop, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, shared his thoughts in an April 24 statement announcing the release of the 2025 "Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood." Since 2006, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, or CARA, has overseen the report,

which is made directly to the USCCB. The report comes in advance of the 62nd annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations, celebrated this year on May 11. In what would be his final message for the day, Pope Francis – writing March 19 amid his final illness – stressed the need for prayer and communal support for men and women in discerning their vocations from Jesus Christ. That call dovetailed with the data in CARA's report, which found that 78% of the survey participants had participated in regular Eucharistic adoration before entering the seminary, with 89% encouraged to consider priesthood by someone: either a parish priest (60%), friend (52%) or fellow parishioner (42%). ■